

THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2010

D J Barker

An Introduction

During 2010 a total of 207 native or self-sustaining feral species were recorded throughout the county plus a further 8 sub-species/races were identified. The table shows the total of species seen per month.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
120	120	135	155	148	131	140	144	144	135	130	138

Of the 207 species already mentioned, 86 were primarily year round residents, 31 were winter visitors, 32 were summer visitors, 28 passage migrants and 30 were less than annual visitors of which 10* had been recorded on no more than 10 times since 1974. A total of 115** species bred, including for the first time Peregrine and Oystercatcher.

* Includes Barnacle Goose ** Includes Short-eared Owl

Abbreviations and place names

Abbreviations used in the systematic lists are shown below. For place names difficulties arise where there are several names for the same sites including where, for example, a gravel pit complex is named but not the individual pit. A map and guide to the main sites is included towards the end of the report to assist with identification and further detail can be found at www.berksbirds.co.uk/pits.asp.

AGE/SEX

ad	Adult
fls	First summer
flw	First winter (plumage)
imm	Immature
juv	Juvenile
s/p	Summer plumage
s/s	Second summer
s/w	Second winter
w/p	Winter plumage
w	Winter
3/s	Third summer
3/w	Third winter
4/s	Fourth summer

PLACES/LOCALITIES

Com	Common
CP	Country Park
Fm	Farm
GC	Golf course
GP	Gravel Pit(s)
K&A	Kennet and Avon
Res	Reservoir
R.	River
SF	Sewage Farm
STW	Sewage Treatment Works
Dorney W	Dorney Wetlands
QMR	Queen Mother Reservoir

Please note that the Moor Green Lakes LNR is represented under Eversley GPs

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Locally common resident

The monthly maxima at sites where counts were regular are as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs*	49	38	20	10	6	7	14	9	19	24	24	22
Lower Fm GP	5	10	4	6	5	13	4	6	5	10	10	3
Newbury Wharf	84	42	60	36	43	37	nc	29	33	43	45	66
Windsor Esplanade	234	229	262	249	nc	nc	nc	242	241	198	166	167
Wraysbury/Horton GPs	75	62	58	31	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	103	89	116

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hampshire

The high count of 262 at Windsor Esplanade occurred on Mar 2 (DF). Elsewhere counts in excess of 50 involved 51 at Temple on Feb 1 (BDC) increasing to 80 on Mar 17 (CDRH), 55 Theale Main GP on Jun 28 with 52 still present on Jul 9 (KEM), 55 at Burghfield GPs on Oct 3 had increased to 110 on Oct 31 with 98 still present on Nov 13 (JA). Elsewhere, 84 were on the Jubilee River on Oct 15 (KPD) and 76 at Twyford GPs on Nov 1 (DJB). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 25 locations involving 31 pairs hatching at least 117 cygnets. A pure white cygnet known as a 'Polish Swan' was amongst a brood of 4 cygnets at South Lake Earley from Jul 7 (JCL) to the years end.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

A scarce and declining passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

The recent small increase in records continued in 2010 with 2 records involving 8 birds in the second winter. Three adults briefly visited the BA pit at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 30 (CDRH) and a family party of 5 (2 ads 3 imms), first located at Marlow GPs, Bucks on Dec 4, visited Cock Marsh on Dec 5 (ADB *et al.*) remaining to Dec 6.

WHOOPEL SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

A scarce passage and winter visitor, formally a feral resident (Amber Listed)

The first record since 2008 involved an adult associating with Mute Swans on the R Kennet at Leverton on Dec 11 (DJB *et al.*) and seen in flight there, heading north on Dec 14 (PBy).

WHITE FRONTED GOOSE *Ancer albifrons*

Uncommon but regular winter visitor, scarce passage migrant

With records involving 151 birds, 2010 was the best year since 1987 when an estimated 191 birds were reported. **First winter:** 3 (2 ads and 1 1stw) were present in the Charvil/Borough Marsh area from Feb 14 to Feb 27 (BTB *et al.*) with 1 still present on Mar 3 (STh). **Second winter:** In December a cold weather influx into southern England resulted in 3 records in E Berks, beginning with a flock of 120 flying SW over the M4 at Cippenham Slough on Dec 21 (CDRH) which is the largest flock reported in Berks since 250 flew south over Hungerford on Feb 23 1979. Eleven (6 ads and 5 juvs) briefly visited QMR on Dec 22 (CDRH) before being relocated on the R Thames at Old Windsor on Dec 26 (RMH) and then at Datchet on Dec 27 (CDRH). This flock then moved to Dorney Reach, Bucks where they remained into 2011. Finally what is presumed to be the long staying Kennet Valley feral bird was reported at Hosehill Lake, Theale GPs on Apr 24 (TABR).

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Common and widespread introduced resident (northern wild populations are Amber Listed)

Records were received from 57 locations throughout the county. The monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs*	72	50	12	9	18	16	25	11	54	42	–	–
Great Meadow Pond	3	16	141	120	247	202	184	324	308	88	21	–
Lower Farm GPs	2	10	4	2	–	–	2	50	–	20	–	2
Padworth Lane GP	102	–	88	–	–	–	–	–	142	–	103	116

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hampshire

As the population increases, more and more sites are recording counts of over 100 birds. In 2010 12 locations recorded such numbers with a further 9 recording 50–99 birds. Away from the table, the highest counts involved 170 Wraysbury GPs on Jan 12 (CDRH), 194 Charvil on Jan 12–15 (DJB), 185 Old Windsor on Jan 25 (CDRH), 165 Cheapside on Feb 14 (MSFW), 221 Englefield on Aug 8 (RCr), 226 Hosehill Lake on Sep 19 (RCr) and 163 Horton Fields on Dec 25 (CDRH). The count of 324 at Great Meadow Pond occurred on Aug 15 (DJB) and is a county record. **Breeding:** was reported from 9 sites and involved at least 46 pairs. The most productive sites were Horton GPs where 6 pairs hatched at least 25 goslings (CDRH), the R Thames at Tilehurst, Reading where a creche of 33 goslings probably came from 5+ pairs (RCr) and at Great Meadow Pond where 28 pairs fledged at least 105 goslings (DJB).

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Localised and declining feral resident, extremely rare wild vagrant

The cold December bought an intriguing group of records (probably referring to birds from the same flock) to the extreme east of the county. On Dec 7 a flock of 16 appeared at QMR (CDRH; ABT) and was then re-located at Cock Marsh on Dec 10 (KPD). There were no further records until Dec 22 when 4 were seen at QMR increasing to 18 there on Dec 23 and 14–16 flew over there on Dec 25 (CDRH). Fifteen visited Datchet on Dec 27 (CDRH) and Dorney W on Dec 30 (BJH); a single was still present on the latter date at Datchet (CDRH) and 15 flew over QMR on Dec 31 (CDRH). These birds remained into 2011; they are presumed to relate to the same (feral?) group that visited Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey (and at one point included an escaped Red-breasted Goose!). All other records are of known (or presumed) feral birds with Eversley GP still holding birds all year round, peak counts being 17 in Jan and Feb (JMC). Elsewhere, 15 (Eversley birds?) were at Finchampstead on Jan 27 (BMA), 1 Swallowfield on Feb 1 (STh), 3 Horton on Mar 33 (BGU), 1 Woolhampton GP on May 26 (GEW), 3 circled Datchet Moor GP on May 27 (CDRH), 1 QMR on May 29 (CDRH), 1 Dorney W on Jun 8 (CDRH), 1 Lower Fm GP on Jun 13 (SAG), 1 Woolhampton GP Aug 6–10 (KEM), 1 Pingewood GPs on Aug 12–14 (KEM) and 1 Lower Fm GP on Aug 13–24 (DJB; FGM).

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

All records were of the dark bellied race *Branta b. bernicla*. **Spring passage:** March is traditionally a good month to see this species in Berkshire and it was no different in 2010

with 4 of the 5 records during the year occurring at this time. The first record involved 3 adults that visited QMR on Mar 2 (CDRH), another, presumed to be the bird that was at Taplow Bucks on Mar 2 visited Dorney W on Mar 3 (BAJC). Later in the month an adult was located at Great Meadow Pond on Mar 21 (DJB) and finally 8 (7 ads and 1 1stw) were on QMR on Mar 30 (CDRH). **Second winter:** an adult was feeding on horse pastures at Colnbrook from Dec 9 to 11th (CDRH).

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Common and widespread introduced resident

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Borough Marsh/Charvil	–	45	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	146	130	140
Eversley GPs*	353	220	122	32	–	55	214	390	300	165	186	151
Great Meadow Pond	60	171	160	115	179	99	136	215	333	162	20	–
Lower Farm GPs	130	100	9	13	91	25	55	150	33	123	150	204
Thatcham Discovery Centre	112	32	18	30	38	100	111	92	87	15	30	75
Windsor Esplanade	208	171	141	47	–	–	–	147	214	195	116	45

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hampshire

Elsewhere the highest counts were 680 on Burnthouse La GPs (KEM) and 400+ at Sonning (ABT) on Aug 14; 429 on Hosehill Lake on Sep 16 (RCr) and 520 at QMR on Dec 7 (ABT). **Breeding:** was under-recorded but was reported from 19 locations, the highest reported breeding density was on Great Meadow Pond where 11+ pairs reared at least 70 goslings (DJB).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Common introduced resident in Mid and East Berks, more local in the West

Records were received from 99 locations throughout the county (9 within Windsor Gt Pk). The range expansion in the west of the county continues with records coming from 10 locations including 1 flying NW over the Compton Downs on Dec 31 (ABT). The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Aston/Remenham area	4	–	2	–	9	–	–	–	26	2	30	57
Bray GPs	–	–	–	1	7	12	26	–	7	6	2	–
Dinton Pastures CP	2	5	22	2	–	9	10	–	3	–	9	–
Eversley GPs*	9	1	6	10	6	6	42	100	162	67	18	11
Great Meadow Pond	23	21	26	22	22	10	9	5	11	13	12	6
Lower Farm GPs	–	–	–	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	–	–
Summerleaze GP area	21	40	13	–	5	5	–	54	2	–	7	32
Theale GPs	4	2	7	8	11	27	22	19	25	–	–	–
Whiteknights Lake	1	2	8	10	–	–	–	–	2	7	2	–
Woolhampton GPs	2	3	3	2	2	–	–	–	3	4	–	1

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hampshire

The high count of 162 at Eversley GPs involved birds roosting at the site on Sep 30 (JMC). Birds here tend to roost on either The New Diggings in Berks or Fox Lane in Hants. The lower counts at Eversley in the winter months may reflect the lack of dawn/dusk counts rather than the lack of birds (MGLR). Away from the main sites, high counts involved 43 Nuptown on Jan 1 (DJB), 33 QMR on Aug 7 and 22 (CDRH), 35 Horton on Aug 23 (CDRH), 42 Englefield on Oct 10 (RCr) and 35 Popes Fm, Hawthorn Hill on Nov 25 (DJB). Counts of 15–30 were also made at a further 8 locations. **Breeding:** occurred at 19 locations including the first for the Newbury area, a 1pr with 4 goslings at Donnington Grove on Jun 13 (RRK). At least 27 pairs bred, the main sites being Great Meadow Pond where 4 pairs bred hatching 17 goslings (DJB) and Theale GPs where 3 pairs hatched 16 goslings (TABR).

GREY GOOSE sp.

One (possibly a Bean Goose) flew over Dinton Pastures CP on Dec 8th (FJC).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 28 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beenham GP	–	2	7	7	4	14*	11*	4	–	–	–	–
Borough Marsh	4	4	9	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pingewood GPs	1	2	10	9	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dinton Pastures CP	2	3	4	2	2	–	1	–	–	–	1	–
Dorney W/Slough SF	2	4	6	3	5	1	9	–	–	–	–	2
Eversley GPs	–	2	1	3	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
Great Meadow Pond	–	5	6	10	11*	8*	7*	–	–	–	–	–
Lower Farm GPs	–	1	5	4	2	1	–	–	4	–	–	–
Moatlands GP	3	–	–	2	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	1
Padworth Lane GP	5	7	7	7	9*	1	–	–	–	–	1	–
Queen Mother Res	–	3	1	3	5	4	–	1	–	–	4	4
Woolhampton GPs	–	2	2	8	6*	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	3	5	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Number of birds	4	7	5	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0

* Includes young birds

The high counts of 10 adults occurred at Pingewood GPs on Mar 4 (KEM) and at Great Meadow Pond on Apr 10 (DJB). Away from the main sites, no record exceeded 2 birds. **Breeding:** was confirmed at 4 locations; 1 pair with 3 ducklings were located at Padworth Lane GP on May 15 (DJB), a pair with 2 ducklings were on Woolhampton GP on May 30 (NC), a pair with a large brood of 11 ducklings at Beenham GP on Jun 6 (RCr) successfully fledging 10 (KEM) and a pair at Great Meadow Pond reared 5 (DJB). It is probable that the adult seen with 7 juvs at Moatlands GP on Aug 8–10 (MFW; RHS) may refer to some of the Beenham birds.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

Locally common introduced resident

Records were received from 70 locations, 35 in E Berks, 29 in M Berks and only 6 in W Berks where this species remains scarce. The monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs*	–	2	6	3	2	3	3	18	6	2	–	–
Great Meadow Pond	–	1	4	5	6	2	–	31	3	3	20	–
Whiteknights Park Lake	17	15	17	–	10	4	–	–	30	24	11	–

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hants

The high count of 31 at Great Meadow Pond occurred on Aug 29 (DJB) whilst the 30 at Whiteknights Park Lake was on Sep 17 (PG). Elsewhere there were 20 on Savernake Park Lake, Bracknell on Jan 13 (DD) and 21 there on Nov 24 (CDRH); 23 on the R Thames at Boulter's Lock on Jan 18 (DF), 8 Padworth Common on Mar 14 (TGB) and 15 on the R Loddon at Whistley Green on Dec 14 (DJB). **Breeding:** was reported from 18 localities and involved at least 27 pairs. Favoured sites included Eversley GPs where 5 nest boxes were used with 77 eggs being laid and 58 hatching (MGLR). Seven broods were noted along the R Thames from Windsor to Pangbourne and 6+ broods were located in Windsor Gt Pk (MO). The most westerly breeding record involved 2 broods of 6 and 7 ducklings at Brimpton on Jun 26 (GEW). The most westerly record was of an eclipse drake at Lower Farm GP on Sep 10 (DJB).

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Locally common winter visitor and rare summer visitor that has bred (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 38 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GPs	246	197	18	2	–	–	–	–	16	249	179	538
Pingewood GPs	–	100	100	18	1	1	1	–	15	20	20	–
Dinton Pastures CP	102	208	150	11	–	–	–	3	26	39	110	1000
Eversley GPs*	249	412	297	17	–	2	–	–	38	100	193	100
Dorney W/Slough SF	7	8	4	–	1	–	–	–	5	17	29	121
Lower Farm GPs	150	100	5	–	–	–	–	2	4	20	45	220
Summerleaze GP	61	50	4	–	–	–	–	1	1	4	1	104
Theale GPs	–	–	–	1	1	2	1	5	23	1	–	267
Twyford GPs	400	290	59	5	–	–	–	–	7	–	250	50
Woolhampton GPs	4	12	13	1	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	2
Wraysbury/Horton GPs	170	164	110	–	–	–	–	2	13	113	214	130
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	5	4	1	2	–	–	–	2	4	3	5	15
Number of birds	77	168	7	9	–	–	–	11	15	7	52	354

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hants

Birds were reported from 17 locations during the First winter, the high counts of 400 at Twyford GPs occurred on Jan 31 (RRi) and 412 at Eversley GPs on Feb 2 (JMC). Away from the main sites, 106 were noted at Ascot Place on Feb 2 (BDC). Most birds had departed by the end of March, the highest April count being 18 at Pingewood GPs on Apr 7 (KEM). **Summer:** birds were seen at 4 locations during May/June with 1f Pingewood GPs from May 3 to Jun 16 (KEM), 1m Theale Main GP May 13 to 21 (KEM; RCr), 1f Slough SF on May 14 (KPD; CDRH), 1 pair Eversley GPs on Jun 18 (BMA) and 1 pair Theale Main GP on Jun 19 (TGB). The first returning birds appeared in July with single eclipse drakes (same bird?) at Pingewood GPs on Jul 17 (KEM) and Theale Main GP on Jul 22 (RCr). More birds arrived in August, 10 circling QMR on Aug 30 (CDRH) being the highest count. **Second winter:** birds were reported from 32 locations during this period. Normal numbers were in residence from Oct to Nov; however an influx occurred during December and as freezing weather conditions caused many sites to become unfavourable large numbers congregated at selected sites such as Burghfield GPs with 538 on Dec 9 (RCr) and at Lea Farm GP, Dinton Pastures CP where c1000 were present from Dec 21 (RRi) to at least Dec 28 (FJC). The latter count equals the highest ever count for Berkshire, made at Bulmershe Lake on Feb 27 1938. Finally, 125 on the R Thames at Aston on Dec 27 (CDRH) was noteworthy.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Common winter visitor, uncommon summer resident which breeds in small numbers (Amber Listed)

A record breaking year, records were received from 54 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	61	38	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	9	10	14
Burghfield GPs	187	125	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	350
Dinton Pastures CP	–	133	8	11	4	23*	9*	30	32	–	–	270
Dorney W/Slough SF	6	12	12	20	18	22	–	23	11	36	34	50
Eversley GPs**	132	117	55	8	12	12*	10*	6	6	56	61	156
Great Meadow Pond	4	13	17	14	10	18	13*	116	86	34	26	6
Lower Farm GP	54	132	80	20	4	19*	20	40	41	32	100	43
Woolhampton GPs	48	–	–	–	4	2	–	6	5	–	–	2
Wraysbury/Horton GPs	525	637	341	–	1	–	–	–	–	140	644	856
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	7	6	10	13	6	6	3	1	4	1	15	11
Number of birds	245	128	46	48	25*	39*	47*	15*	58	8	163	111

* Includes young birds ** As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hants

First winter: away from the main sites, the highest count involved 132 at Moatlands GP on Jan 1 (JA). The high counts from the Wraysbury area occurred on Jan 15, Feb 9 and Mar 3 (JMC); on all occasions the vast majority were seen on the BA pit Wraysbury. **Breeding:** was confirmed at 7 locations involving 13 pairs hatching at least 79 ducklings. Single broods were noted at Eversley GPs (BMA), K&A Canal (PBT) and Padworth Lane GP (KEM). Two broods were noted at Lower Farm GP (IW; JL) and Theale GPs (RCr; TGB) and there were 3 broods at Dinton Pastures CP (FJC; PBT) and in Windsor Gt Pk (2 at Great Meadow Pond DJB; and 1 on Leiper Pond; CDRH). These totals are the best ever for Berkshire.

Second winter: as the table shows there were record numbers of Gadwall in the Wraysbury /Horton area during this period. However on this occasion most birds were found on Horton GPs and of the 856 seen on Dec 26, 795 were on the Kingsmead Pit (JMC) this is the largest ever total for a single water in Berks. Away from the main sites, the only record to exceed 100 occurred at Twyford GPs where 100+ were present on Nov 29 (DJB).

COMMONTEAL *Anas crecca*

Common winter visitor, rare in summer though has bred (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 45 locations throughout the county. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	18	14	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	5	11
Pingewood GPs	150	50	–	25	–	1	2	9	9	32	23	–
Dinton Pastures CP	265	250	60	18	–	–	2	17	47	53	96	120
Dorney W/Slough SF	300	2	20	14	–	2	–	23	65	28	31	100
Eversley GPs*	41	50	39	9	1	2	2	10	23	8	46	12
Great Meadow Pond	18	13	9	3	–	–	–	8	93	12	36	68
Lower Farm GPs	100	100	5	2	1	–	3	6	19	19	130	142
Padworth Lane GP/ Floods	129	–	25	10	–	–	–	–	7	8	–	92
Woolhampton GPs	67	20	3	–	–	–	–	1	2	10	100	500
Wraysbury/Horton GPs	54	8	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	7	14	48
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	10	6	5	6	1	0	0	3	5	1	4	6
Number of birds	222	128	67	26	1	0	0	8	56	2	36	55

* As Eversley GPs straddle the county boundary, counts may include some birds seen in Hants

First winter: away from the main sites; there were 120 at Shinfield on Jan 2 (RRi) and 71 near Hurley on Feb 21 (SJF; FMF). The high totals of 300+ at Dorney W occurred on Jan 11 (DJB) and 265 at Lea Fm Pit, Dinton Pastures on Jan 31 (FJC). **Summer:** although still widespread in April, only 3 locations held birds in May, long staying drakes at Eversley GPs and Lower Fm GP (MO) and 1 at Thatcham Marsh on May 22 (IW; JL). June records involved a pair at Dorney W from Jun 8 (CDRH) to 11th (DBe), a pair at Eversley GPs on Jun 23 to Jul 7 (BMA), a female at Slough SF (KPD) and a drake at Pingewood GPs (RHS; KEM) both on Jun 26. Three arrived at Lower Fm GP on Jul 3 (JA; RPo) and were followed by 2 at Dinton pastures CP on Jul 7 (RM) and Jul 13 (ADB) and 1 Pingewood GPs on Jul 25 increasing to 2 on Jul 29 (KEM). The main autumn influx began in August, 23 at Slough SF on Aug 28 (CDRH) being a notable total for this time. **Second winter:** September through to November was fairly uneventful. However numbers increased during December and a count of c500 at Woolhampton GPs on Dec 7–8 (NC) with 450+ still present on Dec 22 (KEM) is the highest Berkshire count since the record total of c600 at the Theale Wader Pit on Jan 5 1980.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common (locally abundant) and widespread resident and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	106	137	25	73	–	16	51	59	65	20	79	31
Lower Farm GP	30	5	8	6	47	12	58	50	29	60	30	10
Thatcham NDC	160	95	–	71	63	–	77	75	122	77	171	157
Great Meadow Pond	16	31	16	22	32	24	66	87	53	150	30	16

The high count of 150 at Great Meadow Pond occurred on Oct 10 (DJB) and the 171 at the Thatcham NDC on Nov 27 (GJS). Elsewhere counts that exceeded 100 were 113 at Salt Hill Park Slough on Jan 28 (BDC), 195 Datchet on Aug 6 (RMH), 100+ Odney Cookham on Aug 12 (DF) and 167 on stubble at Englefield on Aug 19 (RCr). **Breeding:** as usual for this species, breeding was under reported with records coming from only 16 sites throughout the county, the highest reported number of broods at any one site was 5 at Great Meadow Pond (DJB).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers (Amber Listed)

There were 16 records from 11 sites involving 36 birds in 2012. The monthly status is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sites	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	0
Number of birds	7	7	2	0	0	0	0	2	6	1	10	0

First winter: began with a pair at Pingewood GPs on Jan 2 (KEM) and was followed an unusual record of a drake roosting with a Mallard on a frozen pond in Emmer Green on Jan 5 (ABT). A pair (possibly the Pingewood birds) appeared at Burghfield GPs on Jan 23 (JA) whilst another pair was located on Eversley GPs on Jan 25–27 (BMA). In February, 4 (2m 2f) were found on Woolhampton GPs on Feb 6 (BJH), 2 were reported from Lower Farm GP on Feb 7 (TJJ) and a female was at Wraysbury from Feb 9 to 25 (CDRH). The last of the period was a pair back at Pingewood GPs on Mar 23 (RJB). **Second winter:** early migrants involved 2 f/juvs at Lea Farm GP, Dinton Pastures CP on Aug 10 (FJC; RM) and were followed by 2 f/imms at Woolhampton GPs on Sep 1 (TBu), 5 (inc 1+ eclipse drakes) on Theale Main GP on Sep 22 (KEM) and 1 f/imm on Horton Fields GP on Oct 5 (CDRH). A November influx involved an imm drake at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 7 (CDRH), a drake at Burghfield GPs on Nov 10 (MWh), 7 (ad drake, imm drake & 5 fems) on Horton GPs on Nov 17 (CDRH) and finally a drake flying north over Dinton Pastures CP on Nov 30 (ADB).

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers and rare summer visitor, has bred (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

The worst year since 1993 when there were 5 records involving 5 birds. This year was only slightly better with 5 records involving 6 birds. **Spring:** commenced with a drake at Lea Farm GP and Lavell's Lake on May 2 (RCW; BTB *et al.*). Another drake visited Eversley

GPs on May 19 (NS; DPN) and the last record of the period involved a pair at Woolhampton GP on May 20 (NC; KL). **Autumn:** an eclipse drake at Lower Farm GP from Aug 6 (TGB; RHS) to Aug 8 (MO) was the first record to span more than one day. Another elusive bird spent Aug 15–16 at Summerleaze GP (CDRH).

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce in summer though occasionally breeds (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 33 locations throughout the county. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	12	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	13	8
Dinton Pastures CP	–	6	32	8	2	3	1	4	21	6	6	44
Dorney W/Slough SF	14	–	12	9	2	2	2	9	45	12	14	13
Eversley GPs	98	56	32	11	2	–	1	1	18	29	17	27
Great Meadow Pond	1	1	–	3	2	8	3	81	75	11	12	–
Lower Farm GP	30	31	44	80	1	2	1	31	43	37	60	6
Moatlands GPs	257	279	137	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	60	86
Thatcham NDC	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	14	50	42	32
Theale GPs	351	100	–	6	–	–	–	39	17	–	–	150
Twyford GPs	9	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	9	25
Whiteknights Park Lake	–	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	4	16	30	2
Woolhampton GPs	3	–	5	3	2	–	–	2	10	13	12	–
Wraysbury GPs	23	60	37	–	1	–	–	–	–	5	19	12
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	7	4	2	2	2	2	0	4	1	0	2	8
Number of birds	22	21	10	6	4	3	0	15	1	0	17	48

First winter: The high count of 351 was on Theale Main GP on Jan 9 (RCr) and the 279 at Moatlands GP on Feb 14 (JA). The former record is the highest count ever for Mid Berks and is only bettered by a count of 422 at QMR on Jan 13 1985 (a count of 601 from Wraysbury Res on Dec 15 1989 is no longer a county record; 1995 boundary change). Away from the main sites, no counts exceeded 16 birds. **Spring/Summer:** 80 at Lower Farm GP on Apr 6 (DJB) appears to be the largest April count ever for Berks. Records came from a healthy 9 sites in May and 7 in June, however there was no evidence to confirm breeding. Numbers dropped in July (9 birds from 6 sites) before numbers began to build up in Aug where a count of 81 at Great Meadow Pond on Aug 29 (DJB) was the highest August count since 120 at Wraysbury GPs in 1994. **Second winter:** from Oct numbers only exceeded 50 at 3 locations; the high of 150 occurred at Bottom Lane GPs Theale on Dec 11 (KEM)

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

Scarce visitor of presumed feral origin, has bred

Records were received from 16 locations; 3 in W Berks, 6 in M Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly status is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	8	5	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	8
Number of birds	19	8	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	19

First winter: birds were reported from 10 locations during the period with most sites holding 1–2 birds; however greater numbers were recorded in the extreme east of the county. Here numbers peaked at 6 (3m 3f) at Horton GPs on Jan 9–10 (CDRH) and 4 (2m 2f) at Wraysbury GPs from Jan 10–15 (CDRH; JMC). Elsewhere a pair on the R Thames at Sonning on Jan 9 (DPo) was probably the pair seen at Twyford GPs from Jan 10 (ABT; MWh) to Feb 16 (ADB). There was a drake at Burghfield GPs on Jan 19 (KEM), a pair at Bray GPs on Jan 23–29 (DJB; KPD; WAS) and a female at Woolhampton GPs on Jan 29 (GEW) to Feb 17 (KEM). A drake at Lower Farm GP on Feb 13–14 and Apr 21–May 5 (MO) was probably the drake that has been resident all year at Thatcham NDC however reports came from both venues on May 1 and 5! Other records involved a drake at Woolhampton GPs on Feb 20–24 (KEM), a pair at Burghfield GPs on Feb 14 (MFW) and a drake at Dorney W on Mar 6 (KPD). **Summer:** apart from the Thatcham bird, the only record came from Lea Farm GP, Dinton Pastures with an eclipse drake on Jul 25 (RM; MFW) **Second winter:** birds were reported from 8 locations and began with a female at the Beale Park on Oct 17 (GJSu) and a drake at Twyford GP from Nov 29 (DJB; MHT) to Dec 1 (RM) then 2 drakes on Dec 15–17 (ADB; MHT). The Twyford birds were the start of an influx that bought a drake to Woolhampton GP on Dec 7–8 (NC) then a pair from Dec 10–15 (NC; RGi), a pair at Eversley GP from Dec 13 (RFM) into 2011, a drake at Dinton Pastures on Dec 15–16 (JDC; RM) and a drake at Hosehill Lake on Dec 19 (ABT). At the end of Dec a female was located at Dorney W on Dec 30–31 (BJH; WMo) and finally 9 (4m 5f) were on QMR on Dec 30 (ABT); this is the largest flock ever to be recorded in Berks.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, uncommon in summer though occasionally breeds (Amber Listed)

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GP	122	82	18	–	–	–	–	–	23	53	31	108
Dorney W	150	–	25	1	–	1	–	2	–	3	–	38
Eversley GPs	32	46	16	2	–	–	–	2	33	34	50	52
Great Meadow Pond	49	122	43	11	3	21	41	136	127	32	55	0
Lower Farm GP	10	10	7	4	7	6	9	11	20	22	31	12
Moatlands GPs	230	–	–	1	1	–	6	–	6	–	–	136
Thatcham NDC	33	24	23	6	4	5	4	1	1	31	23	30
Woolhampton GPs	36	–	–	2	2	1	1	9	42	11	15	70
Wraysbury GPs	293	348	268	–	–	3	3	23	2	393	340	62
Elsewhere												
Number of sites	5	4	5	2	1	3	3	1	6	6	5	7
Number of birds	261	22	41	3	1	5	4	2	155	217	181	142

The high count of 393 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Oct 31 (JMC). Away from the main sites, counts of note included 128 Burghfield GPs on Jan 2 (JA), 82 Horton GPs on Jan

15 (JMC), 138 Orlitts Lakes on Sep 25 and 188 on Oct 4 (CDRH), 89 Dinton Pastures on Nov 14 (FJC), 50 Twyford GPs on Nov 29 (DJB) and 44 on the R Thames at Raymill Island on Dec 21 (CDRH). Apart from the main sites, the only site to record birds in June was Padworth Lane GP with 3 on Jun 8 (KEM). **Breeding:** for the 3rd successive year, breeding was confirmed at Lower Farm GP when a female with 5 ducklings was located on Jun 19 (IW; JL; SAG) and it appears that all 5 young successfully fledged. At Great Meadow Pond the first of the regular summer influx had arrived by Jun 20 and had increased to 21 (including 5 juvs) on Jun 27 (DJB). The continued occurrence of full winged juveniles in June must call into question all Berkshire breeding records which are based solely on the presence of fledged juveniles!

FERRUGINOUS DUCK *Aythya nyroca*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

The 34th record for the county came during the cold spell at the start of the year. A first-winter female located at Horton GPs on Jan 3 (CDRH), may well have been the ‘probable’ that was seen distantly at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 1 (TS); it was then relocated by CDRH on the largely-frozen BA pit at Wraysbury on Jan 7 where it remained until 1320hrs the following day, when it flew off South and was not seen again.

Additionally the escaped drake present intermittently on the Jubilee River since 2005 was reported in Mar, Aug, Oct and Dec (MO).

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Common resident, numbers increasing in winter (Amber Listed)

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	653	456	202	–	–	–	–	–	186	239	350	14
Dinton Pastures CP	–	108	–	20	30	–	–	–	36	–	–	112
Dorney Wetlands	300	–	–	–	–	2	11	–	32	12	–	280
Eversley GPs	281	381	214	91	–	33	88	116	116	104	167	176
Great Meadow Pond	13	48	77	34	20	5	0	2	4	13	17	0
Horton GPs	183	485	252	–	–	–	–	–	–	199	713	68
Lower Farm GP	10	23	25	25	14	23	25	10	2	30	17	14
Thatcham NDC	45	25	28	50	13	15	20	18	38	21	26	46
Wraysbury GPs	310	609	385	39	–	–	–	182	100	908	656	114

High counts in the table of 653 at Bray GP on Jan 23 (DJB) and 381 at Eversley GPs on Feb 1 (JMC) are both site records. The 908 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Oct 31 (JMC) and reflects the Wraysbury total of 920 on the same date in 2009. The 713 at Horton GPs occurred on Nov 30, the same day that 656 were present on Wraysbury GPs (JMC). Elsewhere high counts included 560 at Moatlands GPs on Jan 23 (JA), 480 Burghfield GPs on Feb 20 (JA) and 458 on QMR on Dec 19 (CDRH). **Breeding:** was reported from 10 locations involving at least 23 broods. The highest breeding density reported came from Dinton Pastures CP where at least 6 broods were seen (MO). Five broods were noted at Theale GPs and 3+ broods were reported from Eversley GPs and Lower Fm GP.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce though annual winter visitor and passage migrant (Red Listed)

The spells of cold winter weather at both ends of the year produced an above average year for this species. **First winter:** the drake present at Burghfield GPs (Smallmead GP) from Dec 2009 remained into 2010 being seen on Jan 1 at Smallmead GP (MO) and at Searle's Fm GP on Jan 2 and 4 (KEM; MRWS). An adult female was on Horton GP from Jan 4 to Jan 9 (CDRH) and also visited QMR on Jan 5, 17 and Feb 20 (CDRH) and a drake (possibly the Burghfield GPs bird) was on Moatlands GP on Jan 19 (KEM). **Second winter:** began with 3 drakes coming out of eclipse on Moatlands GP on Nov 9 (ADB). Incoming cold weather produced an influx notably into E Berks with a 1st winter female at Horton GP on Nov 22 to Dec 9 (CDRH), then a single 1st winter drake and female from Dec 12–14 (CDRH). Nearby a 1st winter drake was on QMR on Dec 12 which was joined by 2 1st winter females on Dec 19–20 increasing to 3 1st winter females on Dec 22 (CDRH); the last sighting was a female on Dec 27. A number of records also came from the Jubilee River with a 1st winter drake and female (QMR birds; CDRH) present downstream of the Blackpotts Viaduct, Eton from Dec 25 into 2011 (KPD *et al.*). Other sightings along the Jubilee River on Dec 25, Dec 29 (KPD) and at Dorney W on Dec 30 (BJH) probably relate to these birds. Further west a 1st winter drake was on the R Thames at Aston from Dec 25 into 2011 (CDRH) and a drake was noted at Hosehill Lake Theale on Dec 27 (PD) and Dec 28 (BJH).

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Rare vagrant (Amber Listed)

The first record since the Lea Farm GP female of Apr 2003, involved a 1st winter Drake and a fem/imm at Dorney W on the evening of Dec 4. Found by visiting observers the birds were seen by several local observers including CDRH who aged the birds. Despite extensive searching along the Jubilee River on the morning of Dec 5, they were never seen again. This is the 13th record for Berks.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Red Listed)

With only 2 records involving 3 birds, 2010 was a poor year for this species. The only spring record was a pair at QMR on Apr 7 (CDRH), until 11am when they were flushed by boats and flew off South-east. There were no further sightings until a juvenile visited QMR on Dec 13 (CDRH; MMc).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Rare winter visitor (Amber Listed)

The only record involved an adult female at QMR from Dec 29 into 2011 (CDRH *et al.*). Although there were 5 records involving 9 birds before the 20th century, the first modern day record was not until 1954, 2 drakes on the R Thames at Ham Island on Feb 10. Since then there have been 11 records, all except an imm on the R Kennet at Burghfield in the winter of 1975–76 and 3 imm at Old Slade NR on Nov 29 1994 have been at QMR.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Locally common winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 16 locations; 3 in W Berks, 6 in M Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burghfield GPs	6	4	4	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	6
Dinton Pastures CP	8	18	28	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	8
Eversley GPs	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
Hosehill Lake, Theale GPs	5	16	6	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	5
Moatlands GPs	11	6	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2
Queen Mother Res	10	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	9	10
Wraysbury GPs	23	54	52	7	–	–	–	–	–	6	41	7
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	4	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Number of birds	5	2	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	7

First winter: the high count of 54 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Feb 9 (JMC). The count of 28 at Dinton Pastures CP on Mar 7 (ADB) was note-worthy; otherwise totals were normal for most sites. The only W Berks record involved a drake at Thatcham GPs on Jan 2 (GJS). Most birds had left by early April, the latest sighting that month being 3 at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 17 (CDRH). The 2 May records involved the same 1st summer drake, being seen at QMR on May 6 (CDRH) and nearby at Horton GPs on May 7 (PBT). **Second winter:** the first of the season was a female circling QMR on Oct 17 (CDRH) and 3 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 18 (CDRH). Numbers were low during Nov-Dec with only Wraysbury GPs and QMR holding double figures. Records of interest included single birds at Thatcham DC on Nov 9 (GJS) and a female on the R Thames at Boulters Lock on Dec 21 (CDRH).

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Uncommon winter visitor but regular at preferred sites (Amber Listed)

Birds were reported from 11 locations, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Twyford GPs	4	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Wraysbury GPs	17	7	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	20
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	3	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	5
Number of birds	10	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	18

First winter: the high counts of 17 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Jan 11 (11 drakes) and Jan 12 (10 drakes) (CDRH). At Twyford GPs, no day counts exceeded 3 birds but it was clear that at least 2 drakes and 2 redheads were present during Jan. Away from the main sites, a redhead visited QMR on Jan 5 (CDRH), 1 rh was on Theale Main GP on Jan 16 (KEM). Numbers peaked at 8 (3 drakes 5rh) at Horton GPs on Jan 11 (CDRH) and a drake visited Bray GP on Feb 21 (CDRH). The last record involved a drake at Wraysbury GPs on

Mar 11 (CDRH). **Spring:** a drake present on Moatlands GP on May 21 (RCr *et al.*) is the first May record for Berks. Previously, the latest spring record involved a rh at Twyford GPs on Apr 21 1996. **Second winter:** an eclipse drake at Wraysbury GPs on Nov 25 (CDRH) was the first returnee and by the months end 3 birds were in residence. The only other Nov record was 1 rh on Sandford Lake, Dinton Pastures CP on Nov 28 (MFW; FJC). As freezing conditions gripped Berkshire in Dec, higher numbers than usual were recorded especially in the east. The high count of 20 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Dec 20 (CDRH) however nearby at Horton GPs, birds were very scarce, the only report being 1 rh on Dec 6 (CDRH). Elsewhere 2 rh were on Theale Main GP on Dec 11 (KEM), 2 rh on the R Thames at Windsor on Dec 20 had increased to 3 by Dec 23 (KPD). Numbers on the Jubilee River at or near to Dorney W went from 1 rh on Dec 23 (MMc) to 3 rh and a 1stw drake by Dec 26 and remained to the years end (KPD *et al.*) and 8 rh flew west over Dorney W on Dec 27 (DJB). Finally 4 (1drake 3rh) were on the R Thames at Aston on Dec 27 (CDRH).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

2010 was another poor year for this species with only 2 records involving 3 birds. For the last 7 years this species has been extremely scarce. All records came in the Second winter with 2 rh on Moatlands GP on Nov 7 (MFW), an imm drake on Lower Fm GP on Nov 17 (NC).

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Uncommon winter visitor though regular at preferred sites, has summered

Records were received from 25 locations, 4 in W Berks, 7 in M Berks and 14 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	52	47	33	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	63	118
Moatlands GPs	1	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Queen Mother Res	2	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	10
Theale GPs	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	9
Wraysbury GPs	4	9	9	2	–	–	–	–	–	10	2	14
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	6	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	13
Number of birds	7	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	48

First winter: the high count of 52 (27 drakes) at Eversley GPs occurred on Jan 4 (JMC). Away from Eversley no site held more than 9 birds at any given time, late records involved 2 Wraysbury GPs on Apr 4 (RJD), 1 rh Eversley GPs on Apr 5 (SAG) and 1 drake Woolhampton on Apr 9 (NC). **Second winter:** an early flock of 10 at Wraysbury GPs on Oct 3 (CDRH) was followed by an imm drake at Eversley GPs on Oct 16 (PBT). Numbers were low throughout the county until the onset of cold weather in late Nov then 63 were counted coming to roost at Eversley GPs on Nov 29 (JMC). Numbers continued to build at Eversley culminating in a count of 118 roosting on Dec 5 (IHB) and 104 there on Dec 7 (BMA). These are the highest totals from Eversley since 1997 when 184 were present on Jan 12. Away from Eversley, several sites received larger numbers than what would be expected in normal conditions. Such records included 6rh flying east over Dorney W on Dec 5 (DJB);

BAJC; KPD) that were probably the same 6rh seen at Horton GPs on Dec 6 (CDRH). Nine rh were on Theale Main GP on Dec 13 (NC), 19 were on the RThames at Windsor on Dec 20 (KPD) and 10rh visited QMR on Dec 21 (CDRH), finally 7 were reported on the R Thames at Streatley on Dec 31 (DJW).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Scarce and declining visitor due to the continued national cull of this species

The national cull of this species has caused a drastic reduction in the number of birds that now visit our county. Birds were reported from 6 locations. **First winter:** a female was present at Lower Fm GP during Jan (MO) and a pair was on Wraysbury Village Pit on Feb 19 (CDRH). **Spring:** the only records involved a female present on Great Meadow Pond from Apr 4 to May 5 (DJB) and a report of 1 at an undisclosed site near Newbury on May 12 (RJ). **Autumn:** a female was present at Woolhampton GPs on Aug 29 (KEM; MFW). **Second winter:** after a pair on Wraysbury GPs on Nov 8 (CDRH) there were 3 December records; 1f Wraysbury GPs on Dec 1–3 (JMC; CDRH), 1f Moatlands GP on Dec 11–12 (MFW; PBT) and 1f Dorney W from Dec 25 into 2011 (KPD *et al.*).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Locally common introduced resident with numbers inflated in autumn at certain sites for shooting

Records were received from 73 locations throughout the county. In recent years there has been an increase in the release of captive bred birds for shooting and evidence points to all counts of 50 or more concerning such birds. Large coveys that may include wild bred birds were noted on the Compton Downs where 3 coveys totalled 32 birds on Jan 2 (DJB), at Brightwalton Common where 20 were seen on Jan 15 (GDS) and at Sheepdrove Lambourn with 22 on Jan 26 (JPB). **Breeding:** was reported from 3 locations; at Brightwalton Common a pair with 10 chicks was noted on Jul 18 and 3 broods totalling 26 young were seen there on Aug 8 (GDS). A pair with 2 juvs visited a Cookham Dean garden on Aug 1 (SR) and 4 possibly 5 broods were seen at Englefield on Aug 4–6 (RCr).

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Localised and declining resident (Red Listed)

An encouraging 42 locations held birds during the year, 28 in W Berks, 4 in M Berks and 11 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bury/Cow Down	4	–	4	–	–	5	–	–	23	37	36	6
Compton Downs	4	–	–	4	–	3	3	24	8	9	–	27
Englefield	–	–	2	2	3	2	22	12	20	23	25	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	3	6	3	6	8	6	6	1	4	5	3	4
Number of birds	21	19	8	13	16	22	17	2	25	50	23	79

The high count of 37 on Cow Down occurred on Oct 17 (ABT). At Englefield, a thorough survey of the estate by estate staff in the late autumn located 79 birds (per RCr). Away from the main sites, counts of interest included 13 Hodcott Down on Jan 31 (ABT), 18 Leckhampstead on Sep 23 (DJS), 17 Pinkneys Green on Oct 2 (MSFW) increasing to 22

there on Dec 27 (PNe), 15 Lower Green on Oct 4 (RHar), 12 Catmore on Nov 14 (GDS), 19 Farnborough Down on Dec 19 (GDS) and 30 East Ilsley on Dec 27 (BJH). Although not the species of choice, some birds are released annually for the shoot and it is probable that some of the above totals will be such birds. An individual that was seen in IW's Shaw garden was his first sighting there since the winter of 1962/3! **Breeding:** was reported from 7 locations and involved an adult attending a juv at Stanford Dingley on May 13 (BAJC), a pair with 10 chicks at Brockhampton Down, Lambourn (ABT) and fledged young were reported from the Beedon Common area Jun 20 (ICB) near Binfield on Jul 11 (RAI) and Moss End area on Jul 15 (RCMu). Finally 3 adults attending 21 juvs were located on the Compton Downs on Aug 11 (ABT) with a further sighting of 2 juvs in a covey of 8 on Oct 21 (CDRH).

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Uncommon summer visitor in varying numbers, most common on the downs (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

All records this year came from the downs in the north west of the county. On the Compton Downs 4 were singing on May 28 (DJB) with further records from this area on Jun 6, 1 singing (RJB) 1 singing on Jun 24 (PBT), 1 seen on Jul 26 (TGB), 2 singing Aug 11 (ABT), 3 singing plus 1 in flight on Aug 15 (ABT; MFW), 1 singing Sep 1 (CRG) and 1 flushed on Sep 3 (ABT). In the Lambourn area, 1 was singing on Jun 3 (JPB), 2 sang on Jun 4 (BBB) then 4 were singing on Jun 11 (CDRH) and Jul 10 (JA) nearby 1 was heard near Eastbury on Jun 23 (MBr). Later records from the Lambourn area involved 1 singing on Aug 1 (GDS) and 2 singing on Aug 8 (NR). Elsewhere singles were heard at Fawley on Jul 22 and 29 (JD) and another at East Garston also on Jul 29 (JD). The overall total of birds present in Berks in 2010 is unclear but there may have been as few as 11–12 singing males!

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Widespread and locally abundant introduced resident in rural areas, large numbers are released annually for shooting

Although there were some large counts reported, these all came from areas where birds are released for shooting and the timing of these records (September) would indicate that these were released birds. Urban garden records came from Twyford in Jan, Feb, Nov and Dec (VFo), Earley on Apr 4 (MSFW) and Reading on Oct 23 (DAMD).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Rare winter visitor (Amber Listed)

There were 2 records in 2010, both from QMR. A juv with a distinct bill deformity (overgrown lower mandible) was present intermittently from Mar 2–25 (CDRH *et al.*). This bird also visited Staines Res Surrey on Mar 21 (R Innes). A second juv was present from Apr 15 to Apr 20 (CDRH *et al.*)

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Common and widespread resident (Amber Listed)

Better coverage than of late has resulted in birds being recorded from 65 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	4	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	2	–
Dinton Pastures CP	2	2	3	2	–	3	3	2	7	5	2	1
Eversley GPs	–	3	2	2	3	1	5	5	5	2	1	–
Freeman's Marsh	2	1	1	2	–	–	3	–	–	2	–	6
Hungerford Marsh	2	–	1	4	1	–	3	–	5	–	–	1
Jubilee River/Dorney W	6	1	2	2	–	–	–	8	–	14	9	6
Lower Farm GPs	1	3	8	15	10	9	11	9	3	5	2	1
Padworth Lane GP	8	–	5	–	–	3	–	7	–	2	8	–
Thatcham Marsh	–	–	–	2	2	2	2	2	2	–	4	–

The high count of 15 at Lower Farm GP occurred on Apr 24 (IW; JL) whilst the 14 at Dorney W occurred on Oct 9 (WAS). Elsewhere the highest counts involved 9 on Wraysbury GPs on Jan 15 (JMC), 16 Moatlands GP on Jan 17 (MFW), 10 Cranemoor Lake Englefield on May 7 (RCr) and 13 at Pingewood GPs on Oct 9 (KEM). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 15 locations all sites involving 1 pair.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Common resident and winter visitor

Records were received from 46 locations, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bray GPs	19	20	18	12	16	8	–	–	12	21	–	14
Dinton Pastures CP	–	4	4	–	9	11	–	–	8	–	–	9
Eversley GPs	7	5	10	4	–	15	20	27	32	19	13	6
Windsor Gt Pk	–	9	9	10	9	26	6	10	2	2	2	4
Lower Farm GPs	–	1	4	3	8	3	6	11	10	10	1	1
Thatcham NDC	1	2	7	8	4	9	9	11	8	8	12	2
Theale GPs	–	–	–	–	27	–	29	51	90	51	–	–
Woolhampton GPs	–	–	21	20	12	19	32	14	–	–	–	–
Wraysbury GPs	35	19	43	20	10	–	–	19	25	40	33	7

The high count of 90 at Theale Main GP occurred on Sep 7 (KEM). Elsewhere the highest counts came from QMR with 75 on Apr 17 (MFW), 92 on May 13 (CDRH) and 50 on Aug 27 (RRi). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 27 sites involving 45 pairs with at least 102 young hatched. Most sites held 1–2 pairs, however some held higher breeding populations such as Dinton Pastures CP (3 broods: RM; FJC), Burghfield GPs (3 broods: MFW), Thatcham Marsh (4 broods: SAG) and Woolhampton GPs with 5 broods (MFW; KEM).

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Scarce and declining winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Only the 2nd record in 5 years does emphasize the scarcity of what was once a regular winter visitor to the county in the 1980's and 1990's albeit in small numbers. One in w/p visited QMR on Nov 29 (CDRH; MMc).

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

All records came in the First winter, all at QMR. A quite distinctive individual with a lot of white on the sides of the head and around to the nape and lores was present on Feb 8 and a more typical w/p bird was present from Feb 18–27. One was photographed on Mar 2 and finally 2 were present on Mar 12–13 (all CDRH). Four records involving up to 5 birds is the best showing for this species since 1997.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

Uncommon passage and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Seven records this year involving 8 birds began in the **First winter:** where 2 distant possibles at Theale Main GP on Jan 1 (RHS) were confirmed on Jan 3 (KEM), remaining to Jan 4 (MO) and were followed by 1 at Burghfield GPs on Jan 17 (NJB). There were no further records until the late **Summer/Autumn:** when single juvs were noted at QMR on Jul 26 (CDRH) and Woolhampton GPs on Aug 14–19 (KGW; SNP) and a 1stw back at QMR on Sep 13 (CDRH). **Second winter:** a 1stw was on QMR on Nov 8 (CDRH) and finally 1 remained at Horton GPs from Nov 26 to at least Dec 14 (CDRH), its departure was presumably caused by shortage of open water as freezing conditions worsened.

GANNET *Morus bassanus*

Rare but increasing visitor (Amber Listed)

This is the fourth consecutive year that this species has been recorded in Berkshire. Once a great rarity, Gannets have become almost annual and most records appear to be fit and healthy birds compared to earlier records that were mainly of injured, exhausted or dead individuals. The 3 records in 2010 probably relate to 2 birds, a juv briefly visited Lea Fm, Dinton Pastures on Sep 26 (CDo) departing to the north. What was probably this individual was then observed flying west over Hosehill Lake Theale (DPo) also on Sep 26. Another Juv was located at QMR on Oct 9 (CDRH *et al.*) and remained long enough to be enjoyed by visiting observers.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common winter visitor, uncommon but increasing in summer; the continental race P. c. sinensis now breeds

The monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	22	19	19	10	1	1	8	7	9	11	36	6
Great Meadow Pond	1	8	1	1	–	1	1	9	26	11	2	–
Lower Farm GPs	7	18	16	8	8	6	6	20	38	39	26	42
Wraysbury GPs	93	14	–	10	–	–	–	13	–	53	100	–

The high count of 100 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Nov 30 (JMC). The 42 at Lower Fm GPs were on the Trout Lake on Dec 31 (SAG). Away from the regular sites; 32 were counted on Woolhampton GPs on Oct 11 (KEM), 43 Twyford GPs on Oct 19 (DJB), 30 flew SW over Maidenhead on Nov 18 (BAJC), 40 Horton GPs on Nov 30 (JMC) and 40 flew over Old Windsor on Dec 26 (RMH). **Breeding:** was reported from 2 W Berks locations. At the main site, up to 36 pairs nested and although not counted, evidence points to a good breeding season with many juvs successfully fledging (JPM). At the other (new) site a single pair reared 2 young (SAG).

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Scarce but increasing winter visitor (Schedule One and Red Listed)

A record year! Bittern's were recorded from 11 locations involving possibly up to 22 birds, 20 of which arrived in 2010. The table shows the yearly status from 2001 with each year's bird numbers based on the first date of their arrival thus overwintering individuals are only counted in the year of their arrival. See the 2000 report for the yearly status 1990–2000.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of sites	4	10	6	2	4	4	3	2	7	11
Number of birds*	5	15	8	2	8	6	5	2	11	20

* Totals may include returning birds

First winter: two 2009 birds wintering at Dinton Pastures CP were joined by a third on Jan 3 and then a fourth on Jan 11 (FJC *et al.*) all at White Swan Lake. One at Lavell's Lake on Feb 7–21 (FJC; MFW) was probably a White Swan bird where up to 3 were regularly encountered to Mar 12 (FJC *et al.*). Sightings of single birds at Dorney W occurred on Jan 1 (BJH), Feb 28 (CRe) and Mar 2 (KPD) to Mar 26 (WMO) it is presumed that all sightings refer to the same individual. One was accidentally flushed at Moatlands GP on Jan 10 (MFW) whilst another was seen intermittently at Woolhampton GPs from Jan 11 (KEM) to Mar 13 (NC). An adult was on Heron Lake, Wraysbury GPs on Jan 12 (CDRH) and 1 showed well in sallows at Bray GP on Jan 23 (DJB *et al.*). **Spring:** one with a broken leg was located at Denford Mill on Apr 15 (RGS). **Second winter:** the first sighting involved a rather rufous individual at Lavell's Lake on Oct 20–28 (FJC). Further records from Lavell's Lake involved a pale imm from Dec 8 (PSc *et al.*) to the year's end which also visited Sandford Lake and Lea Fm pit during its stay. At White Swan Lake, 1 was present from Nov 12, was joined by a 2nd bird on Dec 5 and there were up to 4 birds present by mid Dec (FJC *et al.*) making a total of 5 birds present at Dinton Pastures during this period. It is not known how many (if any?) were returning birds from earlier winters; at least 2 were still present into 2011. Away from Dinton, 1 was observed in flying over reeds at Great Meadow Pond on Nov 28 (DJB), 1 was noted at Dorney W on Dec 5 (DAC), Dec 17 (KPD) and Dec 30 (BUp). Other single birds were noted at Leverton on Dec 15 (CDRH), Woolhampton GPs Dec 22 (KEM) to Dec 29 (CBu), Wraysbury GPs on Dec 23 (MHu), Denford Mill; the injured bird again on Dec 26 (RGS) (did it summer?), Southcote Lock on Dec 28 (AVL) and finally Brimpton GPs on Dec 29 (GEW).

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Rare vagrant

The third record for Berkshire involved 2 birds photographed in a horse field at Sulhamstead on Dec 4 (DCr). Unfortunately the record only came to light when the photos were published on the internet, the observer failing to recognise the significance of the record. The first county records of wild birds were as recent as 2007 and 2009, an earlier record of 1 at Twyford GPs on Aug 13–14 1995 was a bird of the eastern race *B i coromandus* (the race to which most of the captive population belong) and which had been seen in several counties in SE England and was considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee as being an escape.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Uncommon but increasing visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 76 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	–	–	2	2	1	3	3	2	2	–	–	–
Dinton Pastures CP	1	2	2	1	2	1	9	2	1	4	4	2
Dorney Wetlands	1	–	1	1	–	–	3	3	–	–	1	2
Eversley GPs	3	3	–	1	1	–	2	1	–	–	2	1
Freeman's Marsh	1	2	2	–	–	–	5	10	1	–	–	4
Horton GPs	–	1	1	1	2	–	1	1	–	1	4	1
Lower Farm GP	1	–	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	3	1	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	13	21	23	7	2	2	6	7	5	5	11	19
Number of birds	21	26	30	10	2	8	16	7	5	9	19	47

The high counts of 9 at Dinton Pastures CP occurred on Jul 9 at Lavell's Lake (FJC) whilst the 10 at Freeman's Marsh occurred on Aug 16 (RGS). Elsewhere counts in excess of 5 came from Burghfield GPs with 6 going to roost on Jan 2 (RHS), 6 on the R Kennet at Leverton on Dec 11 (DJB) and 10 on Bagnor Cressbeds on Dec 20 increasing to 13 on Dec 22 (JL). The bitterly cold month of December pushed many birds onto our rivers especially in the west where shallow rivers such as the Rivers Dunn, Lambourn and Kennet became refuges for Little Egrets with birds being noted at many sites which observers had visited to see rarer species such as the Glossy Ibis and Great White Egret. **Breeding:** was confirmed at one East Berks location where 2 pairs reared 5 young (CDRH). In Mid Berks, one was observed carrying nest material on Apr 3 (JA) and nearby a single juvenile was noted on several dates in July (KEM).

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Ardea alba*

Rare but increasing vagrant

The 7th record for Berkshire was also the first to be seen by many observers. Found on the River Lambourn at Great Shefford and seen by MO from Dec 21, the bird remained faithful to this stretch of river and the surrounding fields into 2011 and was often accompanied by up to 5 Little Egrets!

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Locally common resident and winter visitor

Although widely reported from wetland sites throughout the county, counts away from breeding sites were disappointingly low. The table shows the monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorney Wetlands	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	–	–	–	1
Eversley GPs	1	1	3	1	–	1	5	5	2	1	1	–
Great Meadow Pond	3	2	4	3	3	4	3	7	8	7	4	1
Lower Farm GP	5	1	2	4	5	3	5	8	13	7	3	1
Thatcham Marsh	1	1	–	–	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1

The only double figure counts not reported from heronries involved 11 at Wraysbury GPs on Jan 31 (DGC) and 13 at Lower Fm GP on Sep 22 (CBu). **Breeding:** information from the counties heronries was more encouraging; Burghfield GPs had 10 occupied nests on Feb 27 and 15 juvs were present on May 18 (JA), QMR had 7 occupied nests on Mar 13 (CDRH), Twyford GPs had 11 occupied nests on Apr 15 (DJB), there were 4 occupied nests at Lower Fm Trout Lake on Apr 24 (SAG), 6–7 occupied nests were present at Donnington Grove on Apr 25 (SAG) and 14 occupied nests (11 with young and 3 with brooding adults) were at Aldermaston GPs on May 5 (JPM) who states that this is the highest number here for 30 years! Additionally 19 were reported from the Wraysbury GPs heronry on Feb 7 (RMH) however no further information was received from this site concerning occupied nests. New locations were found at Sunninghill Park where 2 nests with young were noted on Apr 24 (RJD) and on Great Meadow Pond, where after failing in 2008, a pair built a nest in a reedbed and successfully fledged 1 juv in late May (DJB).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Very rare vagrant

The first record for over 94 years (a long staying imm shot on May 11 1916 at Sonning Eye Oxon was thought to have entered Berks) came in the form of an individual that took up residence on Freeman's Marsh Hungerford from Dec 9 into 2011 (JWo *et al.*). Although not roosting on site the bird regularly arrived in the morning to feed on small fish and frogs that it found in the shallows of the R Dunn and soon became a local celebrity, allowing MO to observe and photograph it at close range. It was also seen on the R Kennet at Leverton on Dec 11 (DJB; MFW) where it was seen to fly into Wiltshire. Record accepted by BBRC.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Common re-introduced resident (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Once again, over 1000 records were submitted of this highly visible and popular species. However these totals are just the tip of the iceberg as many observers see this species daily and only submit large counts and interesting records. The table shows the monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Charvil/Twyford	15	15	7	5	4	16	4	5	4	3	10	11
Combe Area	4	7	2	3	–	3	8	5	5	3	2	14
Cookham Area	72	–	–	57	53	66	46	–	68	72	30	86
Dinton Pastures CP	1	13	6	10	2	1	1	–	5	1	6	1
Knowl Hill to Woodlands Park	8	4	–	3	7	6	7	20	10	10	12	–
Tilehurst, Reading	6	1	8	2	1	10	2	–	–	9	14	–
Windsor Gt Pk	2	4	2	2	2	11	3	8	3	2	3	5
Woodley	10	15	3	12	–	11	2	–	–	5	12	11
Woolley Down	56	81	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	57	34	31

The high count of 81 at the Woolley Down roost occurred on Feb 13 (GDS), the count of 86 at Strand Lane Cookham occurred on Dec 8 (BDC) and is the highest ever count for this area. Away from the tabled localities, counts of 10–15 birds were made at a further 14 locations, higher counts being 30 North Maidenhead on Jan 14 (GLM), 23 attracted to a chicken carcass at Furze Platt Maidenhead on Feb 24 (BDC), 25 Aston on May 19 (DJB) including several catching Mayflies over the R Thames with Kestrels and Hobbies, 22 over Newlands School Maidenhead on Jun 11 (GRF), 16 Cockpole Green on Sep 4 (BDC) and 22 back at Aston on Sep 25 (DJB). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 7 sites in W Berks (GDS; LS; RHar; DJB) and 5 sites in E Berks (JLP; DJB; GBa). Additionally 2 nests were located in the east (RJD; ASI) but it is not known if they were successful! Display was also noted at 5 further locations involving 7 pairs.

HARRIER SPECIES *Circus* sp.

One was seen over Faringdon Road Down Lambourn on May 31 (DJB; FJC). A ringtail was seen briefly at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 29 (WAS).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant (Schedule One and Amber List)

Eight records this year, all involving single migrating individuals observed flying through the county. **Spring:** the first of the year was an adult male which flew ENE over QMR on Apr 24 (CDRH). A female then flew E over Lower Fm GP on May 2 (IW; JL) and another female flew NE over Horton GPs on May 3 (CDRH), finally a 1st year bird flew N over Ashley Hill on May 5 (CDRH). **Autumn:** began with a juv flying S over Woodlands Park on Aug 11 (DJB); this was followed by a female flying over Eversley GPs on Aug 29 (CRG), a juv on the Downs at Aldworth on Sep 1 (CRG) and finally a female flew E over Lodge Wood near Lea Fm Pit, Dinton Pastures CP on Sep 3 (FJC).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Schedule One and Red Listed)

There were 5 records in 2010, involving 4 ringtails and an adult male. **First winter:** a ringtail took up temporary residence on the West Ilsley Gallops at Cow and Bury Downs. First reported on Jan 2 (MFW) the bird remained in the area to Feb 26 (EN). **Autumn/Second winter:** on the Compton Downs, a ringtail flew S over Lowbury Hill then headed W over Roden Down on the fairly early date of Sep 18 (DJB). There were no further records until December when a small influx occurred. A ringtail observed quartering a maize crop on the Compton Downs on Dec 1 (LPe) was followed by another ringtail at Sheepdrove Lambourn, present from Dec 10 to at least Dec 24 (CDRH) then an adult male was observed over fields at Cow Down, West Ilsley on Dec 11 (ABT).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

The only records submitted this year involved a male that flew S into Berks in the NW of the county on May 2 (ABT) and a male over Woolhampton GPs on May 22 (GEW).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Common and widespread resident

Records were received from over 170 locations throughout the county, mostly of 1–2 birds. However this is an under estimate as many observers do not record this species unless the record is of significance. **Breeding:** was confirmed at 16 locations with a further 3 reporting birds carrying food (to nest sites?) and 5 recording display. Prey items include Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Blackbird, Starling, House Sparrow and Greenfinch.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Common and widespread resident and passage migrant

Like the Red Kite, Buzzards continue to be one of the most recorded species in the county. The dramatic natural re-colonisation of this species throughout the county over the last 20 years or so is now influencing observers into what is a record worthy of submission! Now some prominent observers submit few if any records while others will only submit high counts and breeding records. The highest counts in 2010 involved 11 Crookham Common on Mar 1 (KEM), 11 Combe Bottom on Mar 13 (IW; JL), 14 Combe Hill on Apr 6 (DJB), 9 Dinton Pastures CP on Apr 8 (FJC), 10 Swinley Park on Apr 8 (DJB), 9+ Compton Downs on Apr 10 (DJB), 10 Hawthorn Hill on May 1 (DJB), 10 Great Meadow Pond on Aug 29 (DJB), 20 Spencers Wood on Aug 31 (NR), 11 Canon Court Maidenhead on Sep 7 (BDC), 16 Streatley Warren on Oct 7 (DJB) and 12 Widbrook Common on Oct 17 (BDC). **Breeding:** 30 pairs were confirmed as breeding with at least 42 juvs noted. The distribution of these breeding pairs were 19 in W Berks (13 pairs located by GDS, 2 by LS and singles by NC, GEW, JWB and the Kintbury Wildlife Group); 1 in M Berks (KEM) and 10 in E Berks (7 located by DJB and 3 by BDC) in most cases breeding confirmation was made by the location of calling juvs. A further 11 locations recorded display.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

There were 9 records in 2010. **Spring:** migration began with the returning radio tagged female (Beatrice) hatched in 2000 and first recorded in Berks in 2008 which was tracked over Ashamstead Common on Mar 31 before roosting overnight near to Yattendon. It moved to Hamstead Norreys on Apr 1 before leaving the county and being photographed over the Downs in South Oxfordshire. One circled the R Thames at Borough Marsh on Apr 7 (CDRH) and 1 flew W over Wraysbury GPs on Apr 20 (SK). **Autumn:** after 1 over the Wilderness at Kintbury on Aug 23 (JLS) all remaining records occurred in September. One was reported from Denford Mill on Sep 8 (per RGS), a radio tagged bird (named 8T) remained in the Kintbury area from Sep 10–12 (per ADB). Also on Sep 12, 2 birds moved through E Berks; 1 flew high NW over Colnbrook at 1121hrs (CDRH) and a juv flew E over Horton GPs at 1448hrs (CDRH) before lingering over Wraysbury Res Surrey. Finally 1 flew W over Sandhurst GPs on Sep 28 (RCMu).

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread resident (Amber Listed)

As usual, Kestrels were under-recorded but were still reported from throughout the county. Apart from breeding records, the only count to exceed 2 birds involved 3+ adults feeding on mayflies over the R Thames at Aston in the company of Hobbies and Red Kites on May 19 (DJB). **Breeding:** confirmation of breeding came from only 19 locations with most being of adults feeding juvs, however 8 nest sites were located and included 4 pairs using nest boxes and a pair nesting on the church in Shaw (IW). Wandering juvs were also noted at 3 locations, indicating further successful breeding attempts.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant which has increased in recent years (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Twenty six records from 21 locations (10 in W Berks, 5 in M Berks and 6 in E Berks) make 2010 a record year for this species. However the lack of details (age, sex) of some records plus the close proximity of some sites suggests some duplication in records! **First winter:** none were recorded until late Jan when an elusive male was located at Cold Harbour on Jan 20 (DJB), seen again on Feb 7 (MSFW) and Mar 29 (DJB). A female was noted at Bury Down on Jan 21 (JE) and Jan 31 (RD) and may have accounted for the unsexed report from the adjacent Cow Down on Jan 30 (RRC) however a male was on Cow Down on Jan 31 (ABT). Further east a male (the Cold Harbour bird?) was located at Cockpole Green on Jan 29 (CDRH) and on Feb 12, a male visited Boxford Common (JL). There were no further records until early March when passage records involved 1 female over Borough Marsh on Mar 5 (ABT), 1f/imm Cold Harbour (ADB) and 1 male flying E over Thatcham Marsh (NC) both on Mar 7, 1 Dorney W on Mar 24 (BDC), 1f/imm flying N over Pingewood GPs on Mar 28 (RJB; JRe) and finally a male at Cannon Court, Maidenhead on Apr 4–6 (BDC; LJF; MJF). **Second winter:** returning/passage birds were first noted in late Sept with 1f flying SW over QMR on Sep 24, 1 Lambourn on Sep 30 and 1 f/juv on prey at Farnborough also on Sep 30 (all CDRH). After a juv on Cow Down on Oct 2 (ABT) there were no further records until a male flew W over Dinton Pastures CP on Nov 5 (FJC). This was followed by 1 attacking a Collared Dove at West Ilsley on Nov 7 (ABT) which was probably the same bird that was seen at Bury Down on Nov 9 (CRG) and a f/imm was located on prey on the

Compton Downs on Nov 13 (ABT). In December a male at Bray GPs on Dec 19 (BDC) was followed by an imm at Sonning Meadows (ABT) and a male at Whatcombe (GDS) both on Dec 26 and 1 at Great Shefford on Dec 27 (MO).

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant (Schedule One)

Records were received from 113 locations throughout the county. The 2 weekly status from Apr to Oct is shown in the table.

2nd week ending	Apr	Apr	May	May	Jun	Jun	Jul	Jul	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep	Sep	Oct
	14	28	12	26	9	23	7	21	4	18	1	15	29	13
No of sites	3	19	29	25	20	18	12	16	12	14	24	35	19	6
Min. number of birds	3	29	62	57	54	27	16	24	17	20	34	53	27	7

Apr/May: the first birds arrived in early April with 1 at Lower Fm GP on Apr 5 (MRD) followed by singles at Dinton Pastures CP (TOA) and Windsor Great Pk (CDRH) on Apr 13, the Apr 5 record being the earliest since 2002. From mid Apr records increased substantially reaching a peak in May when high counts involved 8 Woolhampton GPs on May 1 (MJD), May 17 and 27 (KEM); 7 Moatlands GP on May 5 increasing to 9 on May 15 (RCr), 8 Wraysbury GPs on May 27 (CDRH) and 10 Theale Main GP (Moatlands birds?) on May 28 (KEM). **Jun/Jul:** high counts involved 7 Woolhampton GPs on Jun 2 (JCh) with 6 still there on Jun 16 (TBu) and 6 Horton GPs on Jun 8 (CDRH). Numbers fell in July as migrants moved on and locally breeding birds moved to breeding sites away from water bodies so popular with observers. **Breeding:** was recorded from 2 traditional East Berks locations with both pairs rearing 2 young (PJC; DJS). Elsewhere juvs were noted at 4 sites in late July, 2 in Aug and 6 in Sep. The July records are presumed to be locally bred birds whilst 1 Aug and 1 Sep record involved adults attending juvs so may also be local breeders, however all others involved fully independent juvs that may have been reared from outside the county. **Aug/Oct:** autumn passage was heaviest in September, however compared to spring counts, numbers at this time are lower than in the peak of spring migration; the highest count being only 5 over Eversley GPs on Sep 12 (MGLR). October records involved 7–8 birds from 6 sites, the latest were 2 Bray GP (BDC) and 1 Lower Fm GP (GT; SAG) on Oct 10 and a juv at the former location on Oct 12 (CDRH).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon but increasing visitor which bred in the county for the first time in 2010 (Schedule One)

2010 was a landmark year for this species with the first ever record of successful breeding for the county. Records were received from 52 locations throughout the county, the table shows the monthly status, however it must be stressed that due to the high mobility of the species, monthly totals will be inflated by individuals visiting more than 1 site.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	14	11	13	10	6	4	8	6	11	8	12	13
Number of birds	18	15	17	13	10	7	11	10	15	12	15	17

Most sites recorded birds on less than 5 occasions throughout the year. More regular locations were at Bracknell where the resident pair could be found throughout the year on either the 3M building or on Winchester House, an imm was also present in May. In

Slough, 1–2 birds were often seen in the vicinity of the power station all year, an ad male was resident at Theale GPs being joined by a female in Jan-Feb and Aug-Dec. Other locations that had regular sightings were Dinton Pastures CP, Eversley GPs, Dorney W and Reading town centre. **Breeding:** QMR has long been a regular site for this species, so much so that Thames Water staff erected a nest box on one of the towers in the reservoir. This year a pair took up residence in the nest box and CDRH confirmed breeding when 2 chicks were seen on May 26. By Jun 19, 1 juv had left the nest box, the other, and still downy, remained inside the nest box but was not seen after this date! The pair attended the fledged juv throughout the rest of summer until it finally left the site in mid Oct (last seen on Oct 15) (CDRH)

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Uncommon winter visitor and a rare summer resident

Records were received from 39 locations, 16 in W Berks, 11 in M berks and 12 in E Berks; the monthly counts are shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorney Wetlands	3	1	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	8	12
Dinton Pastures CP	6	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	4	4
Great Meadow Pond	1	2	5	–	–	–	–	2	–	6	5	6
Thatcham Marsh	–	2	1	–	1	1	1	2	2	3	–	–
Woolhampton GPs	2	1	1	1	–	–	–	1	2	1	3	6
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	13	1	6	2	–	–	–	2	2	3	7	18
Min. number of birds	16	2	7	2	–	–	–	2	2	3	7	30

First winter: records were received from 21 locations with most records in Jan and Mar; the low Feb totals is difficult to explain! The total of 6 at Dinton Pastures CP was based on the number of birds seen from different areas throughout Jan. In fact the only day counts anywhere in the county that exceeded 2 birds were 3 at Lavell’s Lake on Feb 13 (FJC) and 5 Great Meadow Pond on Mar 7 (DJB). **Spring/Summer:** due to the difficulty in locating this species at this time of year, only 5 sites produced records from Apr to Jul, all being single birds. Apart from the main locations in the table, birds were noted at Welford on Apr 10 (RCla) and Boxford on Apr 17 (ABT). At Thatcham Marsh, single birds were noted on 6 dates from May 22 to Jul 24 (IW; JL) 1 at Dorney W on Jul 24 (RN) was the only other record at this time. **Breeding:** evidence points to 3 sites where this may have occurred in 2010. At Great Meadow Pond, a recently fledged juv was observed on Aug 1 (DJB) another fledged juv was found at Woolhampton GP on Aug 7 (KEM) whilst an immature was seen at Brimpton on Aug 18 (GEW). **Autumn/Second winter:** records came from 29 locations; late August records involved 2 at Thatcham Marsh on Aug 28 (IW; JL) and 1 nearby on the K&A Canal on Aug 31 (PNe). There followed a scattering of Sep records before numbers began to build up in Oct, the high count of 6 in Great Meadow Pond occurring on Oct 17 (DJB). Numbers continued to increase in Nov with 8 at Dorney W on Nov 15 (BDC) the highest count. The severe winter weather caused a December influx with at least 58 birds reported from 22 sites. High counts included 6 Woolhampton GP on Dec 4 (NC), 12 Dorney W on Dec 5 (DJB) and 4 at Freeman’s Marsh on Dec 22–24 (NC; RRI). The high count of 12 at Dorney W equals the counties highest ever counts made at Slough SF in 1940 and Hosehill Lake in 2001. Finally an adult male was caught and ringed at Great Meadow Pond on Aug 15 (RRG).

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Common and widespread resident in wetland habitats

The monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites are shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	–	5	11	4	–	5	10	12	20	18	15	12
Lower Farm GP	9	3	5	7	3	4	9	20	17	15	16	6
Maidenhead Ditch/York Stream	–	–	18	–	–	–	6	4	6	19	13	22
Thatcham NDC	26	20	11	16	8	4	11	10	15	16	21	30

Elsewhere counts in excess of 20 came from Sandhurst RMA with 26 on Feb 23 (BDC; MJF) and Great Meadow Pond with 30+ on Aug 8 (DJB). **Breeding:** was confirmed at only 10 locations involving 17 broods, this total shows how under recorded this species is in Berkshire. A more realistic breeding total would probably be in excess of several hundred pairs as this is one of the most ubiquitous wetland species in the county. An unusual record involved 1 in a Brightwalton Common garden on Dec 1 (GDS) well away from any wet area!

COOT *Fulica atra*

Common resident and winter visitor to open water

Although not as widespread as the Moorhen, Coots generally prefer larger water-bodies and here they usually outnumber their smaller relative. The monthly maxima at the main sites where regular counts were made are shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eversley GPs	387	242	122	27	–	26	143	130	195	252	275	418
Great Meadow Pond	22	56	64	58	50	105	193	244	268	20	20	0
Horton GPs	65	111	107	–	–	–	–	–	–	164	440	1020
Lower Farm GP	100	82	83	50	51	50	51	50	32	35	32	25
Thatcham NDC	64	48	15	14	13	18	23	39	43	51	65	100
Wraysbury GPs	1030	653	377	–	–	–	–	–	–	333	320	470

The high count of 1030 at Wraysbury GPs occurred on Jan 15 (JMC), the high count of 1020 at Horton GPs occurred on Dec 26 (JMC). Away from the tabled sites, counts of significance came from Moatlands GP with 326 (JA) and 142 Bray GP (DJB) on Jan 1; 779 Theale Main GP (RJB) and 241 Woolhampton GPs (KGW) on Jan 17; 155 Summerleaze GP on Oct 10 (BDC), 126 Dorney W on Oct 11 (BDC), 232 Twyford GPs on Nov 1 (DJB), 225 Dinton Pastures CP on Dec 21 (RRi) and 700+ Theale Main GP on Dec 24 (NC). **Breeding:** was reported from an under-recorded 26 locations with most records being of 1–5 pairs although at Great Meadow Pond, at least 22 pairs bred but once again chick mortality was high, probably due to predation by Pike (DJB).

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

Rare vagrant (Amber List)

Two were located flying low over rape fields at Pitlands Farm, Cold Harbour at 1135hrs on May 11 (ADB). The birds slowly gained height as they circled the area before beginning to

glide in a SE direction toward White Waltham and were observed by ADB and FJC (who had arrived at 1148hrs) until lost to view at 1210hrs. The birds were then tracked by CDRH (who had been alerted by FJC earlier) as they moved SE over Ockwells Manor before veering SSW and disappearing behind trees at 1215hrs. This is the sixth record for Berks, the last being a flock of 9 that entered Berks over Slough on Mar 2 2003.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

Uncommon but increasing passage migrant and a scarce winter visitor (Amber Listed)

2010 was a fantastic year for this species with records coming from 20 locations and culminating in successful breeding at 2 locations, the first breeding records for Berks. **First winter:** records at this time of year appear to be of early migrants and involved 2 at Borough Marsh on Feb 28 (ABT) and 2 at Theale Main GP on Mar 15 (KEM) remaining into April. Single birds were at Summerlease GP on Mar16–19 (CDRH) and at QMR on Mar 16 and 22 (CDRH). **Spring:** there were 10 records of single birds through April, at Burghfield GPs on 3rd (MFW), Woolhampton GPs on 3rd and 11th (NC), Lower Fm GP on 3rd (BH) and 11th (NC), Dorney W on 4th (BJH) and 24th (RN), Padworth La GP on 10th (PD) and Eversley GPs on 19th (BMA) and 27th (MSK). Two remained at Theale Main GP all month and 3 were on Hosehill Lake on Apr 4 and 10 (RCr); 3 were also seen at Lea Fm GP, Dinton Pastures on Apr 5 (BTB; FJC) with 1–2 then seen regularly in the area until Jul 9 (MO). A pair took up residence at Twyford GPs on Apr 17 (MFW) and 2 were at Borough Marsh on Apr 24 (MFW). Records in May involved singles at Moatlands GP (Theale birds) on 5th and 22nd (RCr), heard at Thatcham Marsh on 15th (KEM), Pingewood GPs on 16th (ABT) and QMR on 24th and 26th (CDRH). Three were noted at Eversley GPs on May 16 (GJD) with another there on May 26 (MGM) and 3 (Loddon valley birds) flew over Woodley on May 20 (FJC). At Theale Main GP, breeding was confirmed when the resident pair was located with 4 chicks on May 21 (RHS *et al.*) of which at least 2 fledged. At Twyford GPs it was clear that the female was incubating eggs and 3 chicks were located on Jun 6 (MFW) increasing to 4 on Jun 8 (ABT) with at least 1 fledging (MFW). Other June records involved 1 at Pingewood GPs on Jun 18 (KEM) and 1 over Fobney Meadows on Jun 29 (AA) both record probably relate to Theale birds, however there were 3 adults on Hosehill Lake on Jun 16 (RHS) and 1 flew west over Woodlands Park on Jun 30 (DJB), these may have been either late or early migrants. **Late Summer/Autumn:** The last of the Theale juvs was reported on Jul 10 (KEM) and the last sighting of any birds at the breeding site was on Jul 23 (RCr). Probable Theale birds were reported from 3 adjacent locations in July with singles at Pingewood GPs on 4th (PD) and 2 there on 20th (KEM); 1 Hosehill Lake on 5th (TGB), 2 there on 24th (TABR) and 1 on 27th (KEM; RM) and Moatlands GP with 1 on Jul 22, 24 and 27 (RCr). The last Twyford record involved 3 at Hurst Green GP on Jul 25 (MFW). In East Berks migrants were at Summerlease GP on Jul 9 (CDRH), 2 visited both Horton and QMR on Jul 23 with a different colour ringed adult at both venues on Jul 24 (CDRH) and a single at Eversley GPs on Jul 24 (MGLR). The last records of the year occurred in Aug with 1 flying high W over Hosehill Lake on Aug 14 (ABT) and 1 at QMR on Aug 28 (CDRH).

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Rare passage migrant (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

There were 3 records involving 4 birds in 2010. **Spring:** the only record involved a single at Eversley GPs on Apr 24 (NS). **Autumn:** 2 at Theale Main GP which were unfortunately flushed by a weed dredging boat on Sep 22 (RJB), a popular 1st winter plumaged individual arrived at Eversley GPs on Oct 11 (NS; BMA *et al.*) and remained to Oct 16. Long staying

Avocets are few and far between in Berkshire, the Eversley record is only the second record that has remained for more than 1 day, the first being 2 birds at Twyford GPs from Apr 24 to May 1 1976. The yearly status of this species since 1996 is shown in the table.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. of records	2	0	1	3	1	0	1	4	4	0	0	2	2	3	3
No. of birds	3	0	1	15	3	0	1	12	4	0	0	2	4	3	4

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Scarce and localised summer visitor, very rare away from breeding grounds (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

All records came from the Downs in the NW of the county. Birds were reported from on Apr 3 to Oct 12 (ABT) and records submitted throughout the summer indicate that at least 5 pairs were present at traditional locations. Breeding was confirmed at 1 site when a pair was discovered attending 2 young on Jul 18 (ABT). For the 4th consecutive year, no large gatherings were reported in the autumn, the highest count being 4 on Sep 3 (ABT).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant (Schedule One)

Records were received from 23 locations, 6 in W Berks, 12 in M Berks and 5 in E Berks. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beenham	–	–	2	6	4	4	3	1	–	–	–	–
Brimpton	–	–	–	3	2	2	3	–	–	–	–	–
Pingewood GPs	–	–	2	4	10	10	7	3	–	–	–	–
Eversley GPs	–	–	3	5	8	8	12	8	–	–	–	–
Greenham Common	–	–	8	7	8	8	2	–	–	–	–	–
Woolhampton GPs	–	–	1	4	2	2	5	–	–	–	–	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	–	–	3	11	9	9	5	–	–	–	–	–
Min. number of birds	–	–	5	23	15	23	10	–	–	–	–	–

Spring: the first birds arrived on Mar 18 with 1 at Pingewood GPs (RJB) and 2 at Eversley GPs (BMA). Two were also on Greenham Common on Mar 19 and had increased to 8 by Mar 28 (NC). Away from the main sites, high counts involved 5 at Borough Marsh on Apr 4 (ABT), 4 Padworth Lane Floods on Apr 28 (KEM) and 4 at Midgham on May 9 (KEM).

Breeding: was confirmed at 6 locations and probably occurred at 2 more with at least 17–19 pairs breeding. Site results are as follows: site A, 2prs bred rearing 3–4 yng (KEM); site B, survey work located 6–7 territories with 4–5 pairs rearing 7 yng (AEDH); site C, held 4 pairs fledging a minimum of 6 yng (BMA); site D, held 5 pairs with at least 5 yng reared (KEM); at sites E-F, single pairs reared 5 yng (MO) and at sites G-H pairs were noted with 2 and 1 full grown juvs in late Jun (JPM). Also at this time, 7 including 4 juvs were present at Lower Fm GP on Jun 20 (SAG) but it is thought that these originated from elsewhere. **Autumn:** the largest count was 12 at Eversley GPs on Jul 4 (GCS). By Aug most locations had been vacated, however late birds were noted at Beenham on Aug 17 (KEM) and 2 were still

present at Pingewood GPs on Aug 21 (KEM; MFW). At Eversley GPs birds were frequent throughout the month culminating with 8 on Aug 28 (NS), the latest reported date.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

Declining summer visitor, uncommon passage migrant (Amber Listed)

The recent decline of this species continues within the county. A poor spring passage meant that birds were only reported from 4 locations of which only 3 were suitable for breeding, and with only 1 pair known to have bred anywhere in the county, the species teeters on the brink of extinction as a Berkshire breeding bird! Throughout the year records were received from 8 locations. **Spring:** from Mar to May birds were recorded from 4 locations, the earliest being 2 at both Greenham Common (JHa; KEM) and QMR (CDRH) on Mar 2. At Greenham numbers increased to 6 by Apr 8 (RCo) before reducing to 2 territorial pairs later in the month. Passage elsewhere involved 1 at Pingewood GPs on Mar 18 (RJB), singles at QMR on Mar 30, Apr 30 and 1 of the tundrae type on May 28 (CDRH), singles at Eversley GPs on May 22 (MGLR), May 25 (BMA) and 4 on May 29 (RBor). **Breeding:** of the 2 pairs at Greenham Common, only 1 was known to have bred, hatching 4 chicks in early May (IW; JL) and successfully rearing 3 (AEDH). Occasional reports from Lower Fm GP in June probably refer to Greenham birds. **Autumn:** passage began in July; probable Greenham birds visited Lower Fm GP with 3 on Jul 3 (JA; RPo) and 2 on Jul 7 (GDS). One was noted in E Berks, at Horton GP on Jul 8 (CDRH). August records came from 6 locations with singles at Lower Fm on Aug 5–7 (MO), Eversley GPs on Aug 11, 16, 21 and 28 (BMA), Pingewood GPs on Aug 14 (KEM) and 1j on Aug20 (RCr) and 1 flew N over Lavell's Lake on Aug 14 (FJC). Passage at QMR was more pronounced! Aug records involved 2 on 16th (CDRH), 1 21st (MFW), 3 nearby at Horton Fields on 27th (CDRH) and 1j on 30th–31st (MFW). In Sept at least 3ad 3juvs were present on 1st, 1ad 1juv on 2nd (CDRH), 1ad 4j on 3rd–8th and 3j from 9th to 11th (CDRH; MMc; MFW). Elsewhere 1j was at Eversley GPs on Sep 8–10 (BMA) and finally 1 was reported from Dinton Pastures CP on Sep 16 (GWi).

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Locally common winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Not the best of years! Records were received from 40 locations throughout the county, the monthly maxima at the most regularly counted sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bury/Cow Down	5	10	100	28	–	–	–	1	–	5	–	–
Dorney Wetlands	60	130	6	–	–	–	–	–	1	100	30	14
Greenham Common	–	20	125	268	–	–	–	–	7	60	–	–
White Waltham Airfield Area	–	9	500	–	–	–	–	–	–	116	150	1
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	6	7	8	1	–	–	–	1	1	14	7	3
Min. number of birds	260	471	1469	50	–	–	–	1	43	957	1249	12

First winter: weather conditions at the end of 2009 had caused a major exodus of Golden Plovers from Berkshire, so the year began with very few birds scattered throughout the county. Flock sizes were quite low and it was not until return passage had begun that some flocks exceeded 100 birds, the largest being c350 at Hawthorn Hill on Feb 28 (DJB)

increasing to 650 on Mar 5 (CDRH). With passage in full flow in March, other large flocks soon appeared, the pick of these were 200 near Hungerford on Mar 3 (DBu), 500+ roosting in rape at Woodlands Park on Mar 15 (DJB) and c400 at Freeman's Marsh on Mar 29 (SA). April records came from 3 sites; there were 200 at Greenham Common on Apr 4 (LS) increasing to 268 on Apr 11 (ABT), 28 were on Cow Down on Apr 13 (ABT) and 50 visited Woolhampton GPs on Apr 14 (NC). The last of the period was 1 at Greenham Common on Apr 27 (JHa). **Second winter:** a very early bird flew E over the Compton Downs on Aug 11 (ABT) and another was located at Bury Down on Aug 30 (MFW). Numbers predictably remained low in Sep, however 43 at Boxford on Sep 12 (RCla) is of note. The main autumn influx occurred in Oct/Nov with birds recorded from 20 locations and included 300 flying S over Kintbury on Oct 29 (JL), 300 at Winkfield on Nov 7 (SA) had increased to 708 on Nov 20 (CDRH) and 400+ were on Remenham Hill on Nov 24 (CDRH). The cold December caused an almost complete exodus of birds, the highest count reported was only 14 at Dorney W on Dec 19 (BJH).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Uncommon but regular passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Another poor year! The only record involved 1 briefly at QMR which departed to the SW on Nov 7 (CDRH).

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Locally common summer resident, common winter visitor and passage migrant (Red Listed)

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Borough Marsh	–	489	6	3	–	–	–	–	–	97	53	30
Pingewood GPs	150	–	59	–	–	153	300	170	–	–	–	–
Dinton Pastures CP	300	300	8	–	2	14	101	240	106	51	38	295
Dorney Wetlands	130	350	2	4	3	25	2	20	–	–	–	223
Eversley GPs	182	400	50	5	9	60	112	160	156	55	230	189
Great Meadow Pond	–	16	22	7	10	3	47	70	57	–	–	–
Lower Farm GP	140	67	14	8	12	13	80	100	45	250	180	178
Woolhampton GPs	–	–	57	3	2	8	100	98	94	65	–	–
No of other sites where reported	14	17	24	26	24	12	4	3	5	2	14	14

First winter: birds were widely reported during the period, a high count of 500 Bucklebury Feb 5 (VF) was followed by 489 at Borough Marsh (ABT) and 400 at Eversley GPs (BMA) both on Feb 17 and formed a cluster of high count records at this time thus pointing to a mid Feb influx. Away from the tabled sites, counts of 100+ were noted from a further 9 locations. **Spring/Summer:** during Apr/May, birds were recorded from 50 locations, of these 29 provided records that pointed to proven or potential breeding. Display was reported from 16 of these locations whilst breeding was confirmed at the other 13. Thirty eight nests with eggs or pairs with young were found, most sites holding between 1 and 5 pairs, however at Greenham Common, 18 nests were located and monitored. A total of 66 eggs were laid but only 27 were known to have hatched and only 2 young were known to have fledged. The main predator appears to have been the Carrion Crow but 3 nests were also plundered

by mammals, 1 thought to be by Badgers (AEDH; IW; JL). **Autumn/Second winter:** post breeding flocks began to form in June, 153 were at Pingewood GPs on Jun 26 (KEM) increasing to 300 by Jul 30 (RCr). Autumn records came from very few sites (poor observer coverage?) and away from the main sites the largest flocks involved only 145 at Remenham on Oct 1 (DJB). Larger flocks appeared in Nov with a high of 300 at Compton on Nov 26 (ABT) but numbers dipped again in Dec and apart from the main sites no location mustered more than 135 birds.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

Scarce but regular passage migrant

There were 13 records involving 20 birds in 2010, all were from QMR. **Spring:** began with 1 on Apr 24 then 2 s/p on May 15, 1 May 17, 2 s/p May 25, 1 s/p May 27 and 2 in partial s/p on the rather late date of Jun 8 (all CDRH). **Autumn:** started with an ad on Aug 12, 1 juv on Aug 16, 1 ad Aug 19–21, 3 w/p Aug 23 (all CDRH), 1 juv Aug 30 (MMc) and 1 juv Sep 28–30 (CDRH). **Second winter:** 3 that were located on Dec 12 (CDRH) represents the first winter record of this species since 1 at QMR on Jan 6–7 1996 and may be the only December record for Berks as one featured in a table in the Birds of Berkshire, dated from between 1933 to 1959 (Standley 1996) lacks details and is not mentioned in Birds of Berks and Oxon (Radford)!

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant, principally in autumn

With just 2 records involving 3 birds, 2010 is the worst year for this species since 2005 when there were no records at all! Both this year’s records occurred in mid Sep with 1 juv on Theale Main GP on Sep 17–20 (KEM *et al.*) and 2 juvs at QMR on Sep 18 (CDRH).

TEMMINCK’S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Rare passage migrant (Schedule One and Red Listed)

The first record since 2005 involved a popular individual at Hosehill Lake LNR on May 28 (KEM *et al.*).

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Fairly common passage migrant, uncommon winter visitor (Red Listed)

A superb year with 73 records involving around 280 birds from 12 locations throughout the county making 2010 the best ever year for the number of birds recorded. The table shows the monthly status for the year:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	No. of records	–	–	–	–	4	–	2	1	2	–	–	–
	No. of birds	–	–	–	–	4	–	2	1	2	–	–	–
Dinton Pastures CP	No. of records	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	–
	No. of birds	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	–
Eversley GPs	No. of records	–	–	1	–	1	–	2	1	–	1	–	–
	No. of birds	–	–	1	–	1	–	2	3	–	1	–	–

Horton GPs	No. of records	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
	No. of birds	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-
Hosehill Lake	No. of records	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	No. of birds	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Queen Mother Res	No. of records	-	-	1	1	3	-	5	6	7	2	7	3
	No. of birds	-	-	2	14	4	-	7	c11	c17	2	c171	3
Theale Main GP	No. of records	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
	No. of birds	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other sites	No. of records	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
	No. of birds	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	Total records	0	1	2	2	14	1	14	13	11	3	7	5
	Total birds	0	1	3	15	15	2	17	c23	c21	3	c171	5

The only **First winter** record involved 1 at Borough Marsh on Feb 10 (ABT; CDRH). **Spring passage:** began at Eversley GPs on Mar 10 (BMA) but apart from a flock of 14 that circled QMR before departing to the NW on Apr 25 (CDRH), no count exceeded 2 birds. The last record for this period was of 2 at Theale Main GP on Jun 2 (KEM). **Autumn/Second winter:** return passage began when single birds were encountered at Lavell's Lake (ADB) and Hungerford (RHar) on Jul 6. Although records were frequent and widespread during the rest of Jul and Aug, the highest counts only involved 3 birds and it was not until Sep that numbers improved with 7 juvs at QMR on Sep 1 (CDRH) and 5 (not aged) there on Sep 2 (MMc). Passage began to subside through Sep into Oct but at QMR a strong passage occurred in early Nov culminating in c158 seen there on Nov 8 and included a flock of c150 birds seen circling the Reservoir at 1320hrs before departing to the NE (CDRH). This is the largest count ever for Berks, the previous high being 112 at QMR on Dec 12 1974. After Nov 9 when 4 passed through QMR (CDRH) there were only 7 records involving 8 birds, 5 of which were at QMR the other 2 being 1 Summerleaze GP on Dec 5 (WAS) and 1 Dorney W on Dec 19 (BJH). The last of the year was a singleton at QMR on Dec 23 (CDRH).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor (Red Listed)

2010 was a slightly better than average year compared to recent annual totals with 9 records involving up to 9 birds from 6 locations, 3 in E Berks and 3 in M Berks. Nearly all records came in the Autumn beginning with a juv at Slough SF on Jul 30 (RN), further records from this traditional location occurred on Aug 4 (WAS) and a juv on Aug 6–7 (KPD *et al.*) however these records may refer to the July individual. Another juv briefly visited Horton Fields on Aug 17 (CDRH) whilst another juv (a probable male) was seen at Pingewood GPs on Aug 28 (KEM; RHS); the last Aug record was a single at Lea Fm GP, Dinton Pastures CP on the 31st (FJC). A juv at Hosehill Lake on Sep 18 (RCr) may possibly be the same individual that was seen at Pingewood GPs (MFW) on the same day. **Second winter:** 1 was with Lapwings at Colnbrook on Dec 5 (CDRH)

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Uncommon and localised winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

The difficulty of locating this secretive species almost certainly masks its true status within the county. Records came from just 10 locations, almost all being traditional or popular

venues or sites where long staying rarities were present, no records involved more than 3 birds. **First winter:** reported from 4 locations, beginning with singles flushed at Colnbrook on Jan 1 and 3 and again on Feb 19 (CDRH). The regular site of Horton GPs produced 2 on Jan 30 and Feb 5, 1 on Mar 16 and 3 on Mar 21 (CDRH). One was visible from Bittern Hide at Lavell's Lake on Feb 20–22 (MFe *et al.*) and another was reported from Greenham Common on Mar 21 (NC). The last sighting occurred back at Horton GPs with 1 on Apr 17 (CDRH). **Second winter:** began with 1 at Horton GP on Oct 16 (CDRH). The only Nov records occurred on Nov 6 with 1 at Eversley GPs (RCMu) and 1 on Nov 18 at Eton (WAN). There were no further reports until the onset of cold weather from mid-December with 1 flushed at Padworth Common on Dec 11 (NC) and 1 that showed well on the R Dunn at Freeman's Marsh on Dec 11–13 (DJB *et al.*). Singles were also noted at Greenham Common on Dec 14 (NC) and Dorney W on Dec 19 (BJH). Back at Freeman's Marsh, 2 were located on Dec 21 and 24 (CDRH; ADB) with 1 remaining to Dec 27 (MO). Finally 1 shared the same stretch of the R Lambourn at Great Shefford as the Great White Egret, being seen on Dec 23 (SK; PBT) to Dec 27 (MO).

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Common but declining winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce in summer and no longer breeds (Amber Listed)

Birds were reported from 62 locations throughout the county, a total that is the highest for Berks since at least 1996. Nationally the species has fared better in recent years and the BBS trend from 1995–2008 has shown an increase of 39%. However thoughts of Snipe returning to breed in Berks would be premature as there is no evidence from recent records received that re-colonisation is under way. The monthly maximum counts at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burnthouse La GPs	–	1	4	4	–	–	2	2	3	12	1	–
Dinton Pastures CP	11	6	8	1	–	–	–	–	2	1	4	2
Dorney Wetlands	12	7	32	2	–	–	–	2	–	12	6	10
Eversley GPs	4	5	4	3	1	–	2	4	6	4	7	7
Lower Farm GP	2	2	2	–	–	–	3	4	4	3	2	3
Padworth La GP	5	5	40	4	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	4
Woolhampton GPs	17	15	28	5	–	–	–	4	5	5	22	1
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sites	12	4	9	8	1	–	–	5	4	–	10	23
Min. number of birds	27	4	40	23	1	–	–	8	4	–	17	60

First winter: records of 1–10 birds were received from 29 sites. Another 5 sites occasionally held higher numbers with maximum counts of 11 Lea Fm GP on Jan 31 (FJC), 27 Ruscombe (CDRH) and 28 Woolhampton GPs (KEM) both on Mar 1, 32 Dorney W on Mar 2 (KPD) and 40 Padworth La GP on Mar 16 (KEM). Although still widespread in early April, almost all had left by the months end, the only May reports being singles at Ruscombe on May 3 (CDRH) and Eversley GPs on May 6 (PBT). **Second winter:** records came from 45 locations with most in December when freezing conditions forced birds into more open areas, however there were very few counts that exceeded 10 birds. The first autumn records came in July with 2 at Lower Fm GP on the 6th (HBW) and 2 at Eversley GPs on Jul 16 (BMA). Numbers were low during Aug–Sep, the first double figure count not occurring until

Oct 2 when 12 were at Burnthouse La GP (ABT) and another 12 were found at Dorney W on Oct 30 (MHu). Further high counts involved 22 at Woolhampton GP on Nov 10 (KEM), 10+ Dorney W on Dec 5 (DJB) and 12 at Colnbrook on Dec 11 (CDRH).

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Localised resident in small numbers, winter visitors more widespread (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 68 locations, 26 in W Berks, 14 in M Berks and 29 in E Berks. The table shows the monthly status based on records received. Numbers in brackets refer to known roding birds:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	13	11	13	3	14	9	4	0	0	0	5	24
Min. number of birds	14	21	16(2)	(4)	38(34)	25(22)	7(6)	0	0	0	5	36

The table shows that although frequently reported throughout the spring and both winters, there were no records between Jul 10 and Nov 15 reflecting the lack of coverage of woodland habitats at this time of year and also the difficulty in locating birds once roding had ceased!

First winter: most reports involved 1–2 birds from a variety of habitats. Higher counts were 6 along the K&A Canal at Fobney on Feb 8 (DAMD) and 3 at Ravenswood, Crowthorne on Feb 13 (DJS). The first reports of roding occurred on Mar 29 with 2 in Windsor Gt Pk (RMH). **Spring/Summer:** reported from 19 sites of which roding was confirmed from 17 and involved a minimum of 55 males. High totals involved 9 roding at Blacknest, Windsor Gt Pk on May 25 (MSFW) and a report of 8 at Bucklebury Common on Jun 25 (RP). All other records involved 1–4 birds. **Breeding:** was confirmed when a pair with a chick was disturbed at Kintbury Cressbeds on Jun 22 (RGS). **Second winter:** although very scarce during November, this was to change in December when a cold weather influx increased records 5 fold. As usual most records involved single birds, however 10 were reported from Winterbourne on Dec 2 (per JLe), 2 were seen at Padworth Com on Dec 12 (TGB) and 3 were noted along Long Lane Cookham on Dec 15 (MBri).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Scarce passage migrant (Schedule One and Red Listed)

A good year with 15 records from 11 sites, involving 52 birds. **Spring passage:** began in late March when 9 (8s/p 1w/p) were located at Borough Marsh on Mar 19 with 1 remaining to Mar 23 (MFW *et al.*). These were followed by singles at Eversley GPs on Mar 20 (IHB) and Burnthouse La GP on Mar 21 (NR). A s/p individual of the Icelandic race (*L. l. islandica*) was found at Dorney W on Apr 24 (RN; CDRH *et al.*) was followed by 2 at Hosehill Lake on Jun 19 (RCo) that may have been early returning migrants. **Autumn passage:** began on Jul 5 with 1 s/p at Eversley GPs (GJD) and 2 s/p at Woolhampton GPs (RHS *et al.*). Other July records involved 1 at Woolhampton GPs on Jul 11 (JRe), 2 s/p flew NE over QMR on Jul 13 (CDRH) and 2 at Lea Fm GP on Jul 17 (per AR). Passage continued into August with 1 flying ENE over Slough SF on Aug 4 (CDRH), 1 Lea Fm GP on Aug 10 (FJC), 6 flying S over Wraysbury on Aug 8 (CDRH) and 3 juvs at Burnthouse La GP on Aug 11 (KEM). Finally a flock of 19 circled Theale GPs on Sep 11 before departing to the south (ABT).

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon passage migrant (Schedule One and Red Listed)

There were 14 records in 2010, 7 in spring involving 35 birds and 7 in autumn involving 28 birds. **Spring passage:** began with 1 flying N over QMR on Apr 21 (CDRH) and 2 over Dinton Pastures CP on Apr 23 (FJC). One visited Burnthouse La GP on May 2 (RHS *et al.*) and a flock of 28 at Eversley GPs on May 8 (IHB) is the largest spring count since 1993! One flew NW over Hosehill Lake on May 16 (JA) and there was 1 at Eversley GPs on May 20 (JRe) and 2 there on May 21 (NS). **Autumn passage:** the first returning migrants were 5 flying S into Hants at Padworth Com on Jul 18 (TGB). These were followed by 1 briefly at QMR on Jul 25 (CDRH), 1 flying WSW over Horton GPs on Aug 7 (CDRH), 10 flying SW over Reading on Aug 14 (PG), 1 over Burnthouse La GP on Aug 22 (RCr) and 1 flying W over Englefield on Aug 29 (RCr).

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Uncommon to scarce passage migrant and winter visitor also a summer visitor in small numbers (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 26 locations throughout the county; the monthly status is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	2	0	4	6	5	2	3	5	1	0	0	8
Min. number of birds	2	0	4	11	11	13	3	17	3	0	0	15

First winter: the December 2009 individual at Borough Marsh was last seen on Jan 1 (ABT), the only other true winter record came from Spencers Wood when 1 was heard calling in flight on Jan 6 (NR). **Spring/Summer:** passage began in March. A singing bird at Woolley Down was first heard on Mar 20 and was still present on Apr 7 (GDS). Single migrants were noted at Bray GP on Mar 24 (CCH), Eversley GPs (NS) and Padworth La GP (KEM) both on Mar 25 and at Lea Fm GP on Apr 5 (BTB; FJC). Records then focused on the Berkshire Downs especially in the Lambourn area with birds being reported from 6 areas in Apr-May and 2 in June. The highest count from this area was 12 on Jun 12 (MJD) and although mating was observed on May 7 (DJB), breeding could not be confirmed! However breeding was confirmed in the Welford area where up to 4 birds were present in May and young were noted on Jun 20 (RClA). The only May record away from the downs involved 1 at Dorney W on May 24 (DC). **Autumn:** passage was first noted on Jul 4 with 1 at Horton GPs (CDRH) then singles followed at Eversley GP on Jul 13 (MSk) and Burnthouse La GP on Jul 28 (RJB). There were 3 records on Aug 15, all heading NW with 1 over Emmer Green (DJW), 5 over QMR (CDRH) and 1 departing Summerleaze GP at dusk (CDRH). Another was noted at Combe on Aug 19 (JD) then 7 flew W over Wraysbury on Aug 28 (CDRH) and 2 flew SW over QMR on Aug 31 (CDRH). The only September records came from QMR where 1 flew E on Sep 1, 1j on Sep 3 and a female on Sep 8 (all CDRH). **Second winter:** the severe winter weather that occurred in December produced the largest ever recorded Dec influx into Berks! The first record involved 1 over Caversham Heights on Dec 8 (AB per RR) and was followed by 1 flying S over Windsor on Dec 9 (KPD), 1 over Whiteknights on Dec 12 (MFe), 1 Charvil on Dec 12 (MFW) and 1 Freeman's Marsh on Dec 21 (CDRH) to Dec 27 (MO) with 3 there on Dec 23 (SK). Three birds at Borough Marsh on Dec 26 (ABT) were probably the same as seen over Lea Fm GP heading S on Dec 27 (FJC) and it is possible that 2 of these birds were those that were seen at Eversley GPs (JRe) on the same day.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*

Very scarce passage migrant (Amber Listed)

The only record involved an unseen bird heard calling as it flew very high over QMR on Nov 8 (CDRH). This is the latest record since 1992 when 1 was located at Cock Marsh on Dec 4 and coincides with 2 other regional records, at Island Barns Res Surrey on Nov 13 and at Staines Res on Nov 15.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Locally common passage migrant, declining summer resident and scarce in winter (Amber Listed)

Recorded from 21 locations in 2010, 9 in W Berks and 6 in both M and E Berks, the monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dinton Pastures CP	–	1	3	4	4	2	2	–	–	–	1	–
Eversley GPs	–	–	3	5	6	4	3	1	–	–	1	–
Lower Farm GP	–	–	2	2	4	3	2	–	–	–	–	–
Padworth Lane GP	–	–	6	7	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	–
Queen Mother Res	1	–	–	–	5	1	1	1	–	–	–	4
Theale GPs	–	–	1	2	4	6	4	1	–	–	–	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	0	0	6	7	7	8	3	3	0	0	1	0
Number of birds	0	0	14	18	12	16	6	3	0	0	1	0

First winter: the only true winter record was 1 at QMR on Jan 1 (CDRH). The next, an individual at Lea Fm GP on Feb 26 (AR) was the first of the spring immigration. **Spring/Summer:** birds were reported from 11 locations during March including 2 over Bury Down on Mar 7 (RCW)! During the breeding season birds were regularly reported from 14 sites, another 2 reported birds on single dates. High counts involved 7 at Padworth La GP/Floods on Apr 19 (RJB), 5 over QMR on May 2 (CDRH), 6 Eversley GPs on May 15 (BMA) and 6 at Beenham on Jun 19 (KEM). **Breeding:** was only confirmed at Hosehill Lake where a pair reared 2 young (RJB *et al.*), another 4 sites did report display or mating but young were never seen. **Autumn/Second winter:** although found at 9 sites in July, numbers quickly diminished and only 3 were reported in August, the latest being 1 at Eversley GPs on Aug 28 (BMA). There were no further records until November when singles were reported from Eversley GPs on Nov 7 (BMA), Lea Fm GP (FJC) and Horton GPs (CDRH) both on Nov 30. Four were together at QMR on Dec 1 (CDRH) and another there on Dec 25 (CDRH) was the last report of the year.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon passage migrant, rare in winter (Schedule One)

Records were received from 18 locations, 5 in W Berks, 6 in M Berks and 7 in E Berks. The monthly status is shown in the table

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	2	1	5	1	5	11	6	3	0	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	3	1	9	1	6	17	7	4	0	0

Spring passage: unusually there were 2 March records: 1 heard only at Eversley GPs on Mar 12 (BMA) and 2 reported from Dorney W on Mar 21 (CCH). Passage was almost non-existent in April, the only report being 1 at Eversley GPs on Apr 22 (MGLR). Passage improved in May, with 9 birds reported from 5 localities, the highest count being 3 at Theale Main GP on May 10 (KEM; RRi), the last record was 1 at Hosehill Lake on Jun 18 (BU). **Autumn passage:** the first records came from Burnthouse La GP with 1 on Jul 4–5 (KEM) and another on Jul 13–14 (RCr; KEM). Passage increased as July passed into August; however numbers were low, the highest counts being 2 Woolhampton GP on Aug 15 (SNP), 2j Slough SF on Aug 21 (CDRH; MFW) and 2 over QMR on Aug 31 (MMc). The latest birds occurred in Oct where 4 birds were reported from 3 sites all being singles at Lea Fm GP on Oct 5 and Oct 13 (FJC), Thatcham Marsh on Oct 24 (IW; JL) and at Woolhampton GP on Oct 27 (MHu) (the Thatcham bird?).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from a record 44 locations throughout the county. The monthly maximum counts at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beenham GP	–	1	1	4	–	2	4	2	1	–	–	–
Pingewood GPs	1	2	4	4	1	5	6	8	5	4	1	–
Dinton Pastures CP	–	–	1	2	–	1	2	1	1	–	–	–
Dorney Wetlands/ Slough SF	1	–	1	1	–	–	5	8	4	–	–	2
Eversley GPs	1	2	4	7	–	6	6	6	7	3	3	1
Horton GPs	1	4	5	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	3	–
Lower Farm GP	–	–	–	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	–
Midgham GP	–	–	2	1	–	–	2	5	2	1	–	–
Padworth Lane GP	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	–
Thatcham Marsh	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	11	4	7	4	–	1	2	6	4	1	2	6
Number of birds	14	4	7	8	–	2	2	10	6	1	3	12

First winter: reported from 27 locations with most counts being of 1–2 birds from habitats ranging from riversides to sewage farms. Higher counts involved 3 at QMR from Jan 3 intermittently to Jan 23 (CDRH) and 4 (QMR birds?) at Horton GPs throughout Feb (CDRH). With early spring passage underway in March, sightings increased, high counts were 5 Horton GPs on Mar 11 (CDRH) and 4 at Burnthouse La GP on Mar 21–23 (KEM) and Eversley GPs, un-dated (MGLR). **Spring:** passage continued into April, impressive counts for the month included 7 at Eversley GP on Apr 9 (NS) the highest April count since Apr 18 2003 when 9 were seen at Dorney W. As usual May was the quietest month; the only records were singles at Burnthouse La GP on May 2 (ABT) and at Lower Farm GP on May 4 (NC). **Autumn:** passage began in June with records coming from 7 locations. The first involved 2 at Beenham on Jun 15 (KEM) and 1 at Burnthouse La GP on Jun 16 (KEM). Numbers slowly built up from late June and through July before reaching a peak in August when maximum counts involved 8 at Burnthouse La GP on Aug 20 (RCr) and 8+ at Slough SF on Aug 23

(CDRH). Although 7 were present at Eversley GPs on Sep 3 and 13 (BMA), numbers had passed their peak and only 12 birds were noted from 6 sites in Oct. **Second winter:** November was a quiet month, the highest counts being only 3 at Eversley GPs on Nov 1 (GJD; RFM) and 3 at Horton GP on Nov 26–27 (CDRH). Most of the more regular winter sites became deserted as freezing conditions prevailed in December and as conditions worsened more birds found sanctuary along our rivers being reported from the R Dunn, R Lambourn, R Kennet, R Pang, Roundmoor Ditch and Jubilee River. High counts included 4 at Freeman’s Marsh on Dec 10 (ABT) and 3 on the R Lambourn at Great Shefford on Dec 23 (PBT).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Scarce passage migrant (Amber Listed)

A poor year with only 2 acceptable records both during **Autumn passage:** 1 was on Theale Main GP Jul 22 (RCr) which was joined by a 2nd bird later in the day (KS) then a juv was located at Crookham Pools on Jul 23–25 (AEDH *et al.*). A further 5 records were deemed unacceptable due to the lack of details provided.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common passage migrant, scarce in summer and winter, has bred (Amber Listed)

Records came from 27 locations throughout the county in 2010. The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pingewood GPs	–	–	–	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	–	–
Dinton Pastures CP	–	–	–	1	–	2	2	3	2	1	–	–
Dorney Wetlands/ Slough SF	–	–	–	2	1	–	2	1	–	–	–	–
Eversley GPs	–	–	–	3	2	–	3	6	3	–	–	–
Horton GPs	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	–	1
Lower Farm GPs	–	–	1	–	1	–	2	4	4	1	1	–
Queen Mother Res	1	–	–	4	9	1	10	9	5	–	–	–
Theale Main GP	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	7	2	2	–	–
Woolhampton GPs	–	–	–	1	1	–	2	1	1	–	–	–
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	–	–	–	10	3	–	5	7	3	–	–	1
Min. number of birds	–	–	–	17	4	–	6	14	3	–	–	3

First winter: reported from 2 East Berks locations with singles at QMR on Jan 8–12 (CDRH) and nearby at Horton GPs on Feb 13 (CDRH). An individual at Lower Fm GP on Mar 19 (SAG) was probably an early migrant! **Spring:** the first April sighting occurred at Eversley GPs with 1 on Apr 5 (BMA; SAG). Most records throughout the period involved 1–3 birds, the highest site counts were 9 at QMR on May 23 (CDRH) and 5 Hosehill Lake on May 26 (KEM; PH). Passage continued through the county until early June, the last being 1 at QMR on Jun 4 (CDRH). **Autumn/Second winter:** passage began on Jun 30 with singles at Burnthouse La GP and Theale Main GP (KEM) and 2 at Dinton Pastures CP (RM). As usual passage was most obvious at QMR where 1–9 were regular and peaked at 10 on Jul 22 (CDRH). Seven were on Theale Main GP (KEM) and 6 at Eversley GPs

(BMA) on Aug 23; otherwise no site reported more than 4 birds on any one date. Birds were still widespread in Sep but by Oct the species had become scarce, the only Nov records came from Lower Fm GP on Nov 2 (ARE) and Nov 21 (NC; SAG) (same bird?). The year ended with 1 at Horton GP on Dec 4 (CDRH) and a run of records at Freeman's Marsh with 3 on Dec 23 (SK), 1 Dec 25 (JWar) and 2 Dec 27 (BJH).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Scarce passage migrant (Amber Listed)

In an above average year, there were 8 records involving 10 birds. **Spring passage:** was very light, the only report being 1 Eversley GPs on May 8 (IHB). **Autumn passage:** was much better! One remained on Moatlands GP from Jul 22–23 (RCr) with another nearby at Theale Main GP on Jul 22 (RCr). At QMR, an adult circled the site with a Dunlin before settling on Jul 30 (CDRH). Then a juv with a strained wing arrived on Aug 15 and remained to Aug 23 (CDRH *et al.*). An adult and 2 juvs were also present on Aug 23 before being attacked by a Peregrine (CDRH). Further juvs were noted on Aug 27 and Aug 31 (CDRH) thus making 2010 possibly the best year ever for this species at QMR.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor, less frequent in summer (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Records came from 10 locations, 1 in W Berks, 2 in M Berks and 7 in E Berks. The high mobility of individuals and constant changes in plumage as bird's age and moult makes it difficult to know how many individuals visited Berks in 2010. It is thought (by the writer) that between 30 and 35 birds were involved in the 46 records mentioned here. The monthly totals at the main site (QMR) and elsewhere are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Queen Mother Res	1	1	6	0	0	1	4	1	0	1	5	2
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	2	3	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	1
Number of birds, QMR birds in brackets	2	5	0	2	0	(1)	(1)	0	1	3(1)	1	1
Total number of birds	3	6	6	2	0	1	4	1	1	3	6	3

First winter: the first record of the year involved a w/p ad at Colnbrook on Jan 2 (CDRH). This or another ad appeared at the QMR roost on Jan 4 and 12 (CDRH), whilst further west a w/p ad roosted at Moatlands GP on Jan 30 (RHS). Feb was a better month; at QMR a w/p ad was in the roost on Feb 5 and another w/p ad in partial moult with a 1w was present on Feb 12 (CDRH). Elsewhere 2 1w's were on Summerleaze GP on Feb 5 with 1 there on Feb 12 (CDRH) and 2 ads were found at Fifield: 1 with a partial hood on Feb 16 and a ringed w/p ad on Feb 26 (CDRH) and an ad moulting into s/p roosted at Moatlands GP on Feb 17 (ADB) to Feb 27 (MFW; ABT). Four (3ads 1 1w) roosted at QMR on Mar 1 with 2 still present on Mar 2 then later a s/p ad roosted there on Mar 13 and a 1w roosted on Mar 16 (CDRH) **Spring/Summer:** a s/p ad visited Lower Fm GP on Apr 28 (NC) and may have been the same bird that was at Hosehill Lake on Apr 28–29 (RHS *et al.*). A 1s toured east Berks in June being seen at Horton GPs on Jun 10, Colnbrook on Jun 19 and QMR on Jun 20 (CDRH) and was probably responsible for the QMR sighting of a 1s on Jul 9 (CDRH). A s/p ad visited QMR on

Jul 12, moving to Colnbrook Tip on Jul 13 (CDRH) and the first juv was noted at QMR on Jul 22–24, with 2 there on Jul 23 (CDRH). **Autumn:** single 1w birds were seen at QMR on Aug 27 and Oct 9–18 (CDRH), elsewhere there was an ad at Windsor on Sep 30 (DNTR) and 1w's were observed at Dorney W on Oct 10 (RN) and Summerlease GP on Oct 12 (CDRH). **Second winter:** apart from a 1w on Nov 21 and an ad on Dec 31 at Moatlands GP roost (MFW), all records came from QMR: on Nov 2, 2 w/p ads were present in the roost and were joined by a 2w on Nov 3 (CDRH). At least 1 ad and the 2w continued to be seen until Nov 7, then a new w/p ad (blackier on head) appeared on Nov 15 and was followed by another w/p ad on Nov 21 and 26 (CDRH). A 1w was in the roost on Dec 12 and the Nov ads were seen together on Dec 3 with 1 there on Dec 6, 14 and 29 (CDRH).

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

2010 was a poor year with records coming from 9 locations involving 8 birds in spring and no more than 13 in the autumn. **Spring:** the first records of the year involved 3 ads (2 full w/p and 1 with partial hood) at Wraysbury GPs (CDRH) and 1 s/p ad at Thatcham GPs (DJR; RRK) on Apr 10. The next movement occurred on Apr 25 when single s/p ads were noted at Horton GPs (CDRH) and Dorney W (WAS), a 1w passed through Theale being seen on both Hosehill Lake (BU) and Main Pit (MFW). Passage was almost non-existent in May, the only records being of a 2s at both Dorney W and Slough SF on May 2 (KPD) and a 2s at Horton GPs on May 22 (CDRH). **Autumn:** passage was only slightly better than in the spring, with all records coming from QMR area. The first was a 1s on Jul 23 (CDRH) then there was 1 juv on Sep 3 (CDRH), 4 (3 w/p ads and 1 1w) on Sep 28 (CDRH), 1 advanced 1w on Oct 31 and Nov 2–9 (CDRH *et al.*), 1 w/p ad and 1 1w were also seen on Nov 8–9 (CDRH) and 2 w/p ads passed through from the south on Nov 20 (CDRH). The last of the year was a 1w at QMR on Nov 22 (CDRH).

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant which now breeds in increasing numbers (Amber Listed)

First winter: high counts involved 3,500 at the Moatlands GP roost Jan 9 (RCr), 1,050 Borough Marsh Feb 17 (PBT) and 2,000 at Englefield Mar 7 (RCr). There were also counts of c500 at Lower Fm GP Feb 2 and 5 (NC), Great Meadow Pond Feb 28 (DJB) and Bury Down Mar 9 (JHa). **Breeding:** took place at 6 locations with varying success! At Dinton Pastures CP a pair was reported nesting on Lavell's Lake in May (RDrr) but there were no further reports however, nearby at Lea Fm GP there were 3 chicks and several pairs on nests in early June (AR; RM). There were 7 chicks at Eversley GPs on Jul 3 however predation by Mink caused a total failure with no young fledging (MGLR). There were further breeding attempts at Burnthouse La GP (TABR) Lower Fm GP (SAG), Theale Main GP (MWa) and Wraysbury GPs (CDRH) but the outcomes were not known. The main breeding site was Hosehill Lake where at least 80 pairs bred (TABR). **Second winter:** high counts include 1,550 at Cookham Sep 26 (BDC), 500 Sandford Lake, Dinton Pastures Nov 1 (FJC), c500 Smiths Lawn, Windsor Gt Pk Nov 14 (DJB), 1,000+ Theale Main GP Nov 19 (KEM), 500+ Bucklebury Dec 20 (NC) and c600 Lower Fm Trout Lake Dec 24 (SAG).

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Although an under recorded common winter visitor to mid and east Berks, Common Gulls have been quite scarce in the west. This W Berks status however, may be beginning to change as larger than usual flocks are beginning to be reported more frequently. **First winter:** high counts involved 1,070 at Moatlands GP roost Jan 9 (RCr), 169 Great Meadow Pond Jan 24 (DJB) 160 West Ilsley Jan 27 (RBor) and 300 there on Feb 13–14 (NC; MJT). Also on Feb 13, 350 were present at Sheepdrove Lambourn (JPB) whilst further east c1,000 were frequenting the Great Meadow Pond area on Feb 28 with 300 there Mar 21 (DJB). Finally 250 were on Remenham Hill also on Mar 21 (ABT). **Spring/Summer:** birds were extremely scarce in April, the only records submitted being 4 at Padworth La GP on Apr 4 (KEM), 1 QMR Apr 17 (MFW) and 1 Hosehill Lake on Apr 28 (ABT). A 1s was seen intermittently at QMR from May 1– Jun 4 (CDRH) and also visited Smiths Lawn, Windsor Gt Pk on May 2 (DJB) and was joined by an ad at QMR on May 10 (CDRH). Nearby 4 1s's were on fields beside the Myrke, Slough also on May 10 (CDRH), further sightings of a 1s at QMR on Jun 22 and an ad there on Jun 27 then both on Jul 1 (CDRH) may have been earlier May/June birds, however it is possible that these late records represent the first autumn returnees. **Autumn/Second winter:** after Jul 1 numbers at QMR began to slowly increase, elsewhere an ad was on Smiths Lawn, Windsor Gt Pk on Jul 3 (DJB) and a 1s was on Horton GPs on Jul 5 (CDRH). Later in the month birds were reported from Eversley GPs from Jul 27 (BMA) and Lower Fm GP from Jul 25 (NC). Only low numbers were present in the county until late Oct when 120 were on Smiths Lawn Windsor Gt Pk on Oct 31 increasing to c200 there on Nov 14 (DJB). Other high counts involved 100+ on the Compton Downs on Nov 26 (ABT), 115 Moatlands GP on Dec 5 (RCr) and 300+ at Bucklebury on Dec 20 (NC)

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, increasing in summer and now breeding (Amber Listed)

First winter: under recorded, with no records coming from the larger roosts throughout the county. The highest count submitted was only 280 from Sheepdrove Fm Lambourn on Jan 24 (JPB). **Spring/Summer:** although frequently encountered in small numbers throughout the county, breeding was only confirmed in the Woodley area where 1 pair bred rearing 2 young (FJC). The difficulty in accessing probable breeding locations (factory rooftops) especially in the Slough Trading Estate where breeding has been proven in previous years means that this species true breeding status within Berks remains unresolved. **Autumn/Second winter:** the first large count submitted came from the Walbury Hill area where c400 were present on Aug 27 (TPo). Numbers began to build at the Theale Main GP roost from mid Sept when 850 were present on Sep 13 (RCr), meanwhile numbers in the Eversley GP roost (which uses either Fox Lane GP Hants or the New Workings at Moor Green Lakes) peaked at 1450 on Oct 25 (JMC). Numbers continued to increase through Nov with counts exceeding 1,000 birds coming from Lower Fm GP with 2500 on Nov 2–3 (GJS), 1100 Eversley GPs on Nov 4 (JMC), 1834 in 9 flocks flying N over the Compton Downs on Nov 6 (DJB), 3000 roosting at Theale Main GP on Nov 19 (KEM), 2000 at Bucklebury on Nov 25 (RF) and in Dec, 7500 at Theale Main GP on Dec 5 (RCr)

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

Uncommon but increasing autumn passage migrant, a few winter (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 20 locations, 4 in W Berks and 8 in both M and E Berks. As usual most birds were reported from E Berks, numbers declining as you move west. The Table shows the minimum monthly totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colnbrook*	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	57	33	25	1	–
Eversley GPs	1	2	–	–	–	–	5	1	1	12	3	1
Lower Farm GP	–	3	1	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	–
Queen Mother Reservoir*	3	–	1	2	1	5	88	67	22	7	2	4
Theale Main/Moatlands GPs	2	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	5	3
Elsewhere	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Number of sites	3	1	1	–	–	–	2	3	4	3	2	1
Min. number of birds	4	1	1	–	–	–	7	7	4	3	2	1

* These 2 locations are very close together and birds regularly move from site to site.

First winter: constant checking of gull roosts revealed small numbers (mainly adults) wintering within the county. No count exceeded 2 birds, totals of 3 at Lower Fm GP and QMR involved 2 ads seen together at both sites plus single imms on different dates. By March only 3 birds were still present, 1 at Lower Fm GP on Mar 1 (CBu) and 1w's at both Lea Fm GP (FJC) and QMR (CDRH) on Mar 15. **Spring:** April records only came from QMR where a 2s was seen on Apr 20 and 27 (CDRH). A 1w at QMR on May 4 (CDRH) proved to be the only record that month. Autumn passage/**Second winter:** the first arrivals (4 ads) appeared at Colnbrook Tip on Jun 18 (CDRH). Numbers increased into July especially at QMR where daily counts peaked at 85 (81 ads/subads, 2 1w's and 2 juvs) on Jul 24 (CDRH). Birds remained common in the QMR/Colnbrook area until early Oct when birds had finished their wing moults and began to disperse. Elsewhere during the period, the highest counts were 5 Eversley GPs Jul 25 (JMC), 5 ads Smiths Lawn, Windsor Gt Pk Aug 8 (DJB), 12 Eversley GPs Oct 25 (JMC) and later in the year 5 ads at Moatlands GP on Nov 21 (MFW).

Note: a long dead adult, presumed to be this species, which was found at QMR on Apr 15 (CDRH) had been ringed on July 5th 1992 at Burhou, an island off Alderney in the Channel Isles, as a chick in a Herring Gull nest.. and so is presumed to have been a Herring × Lesser Black-back hybrid! This incident emphasises the need for caution when identifying this species in Spring.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachimans*

Scarce autumn/winter visitor

Compared with recent years, 2010 can be judged as a rather poor year for this species with records coming from only the extreme east of the county involving 9 birds. **First winter:** the Dec 2009 1w was present intermittently to Mar 8 and was also seen nearby at Colnbrook on Jan 22 (CDRH). This bird was joined by a 2w and a 3w on Jan 10 (CDRH) a day when a SE coast influx brought 3 to Dartford in Kent and 8 to Rainham, Greater London! **Autumn/Second winter:** the first of the period, a 1s appeared at QMR on Jul 27 and was seen again on Aug 9 (CDRH). This was followed by a 1w at QMR on Sep 28 and an ad at Colnbrook

on Oct 13 (CDRH). A 2w then put in 2 brief appearances at QMR on Nov 8 and Dec 6, a 1w showed at QMR on Nov 30 and finally another 2w was present at QMR on Dec 25 and at Colnbrook on Dec 30 (all CDRH).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant and increasing summer resident which now breeds (Red Listed)

First winter: generally very few records of note were submitted during this period! Counts of 30 at Woolhampton on Jan 3 (TBI) and 30 at Upper Denford on Mar 17 (RHar) were good counts for W Berks. **Spring/Summer:** records came from only 12 locations (under recorded?) the most notable being 65 pursuing a hatch of flies over QMR on Jun 4 (CDRH). Like Lesser Black-backed Gull, breeding is difficult to prove, the only confirmed record being 2 pairs rearing 2y each in the Woodley area (FJC). **Autumn/Second winter:** numbers began to increase from Aug onward; high counts involved 110 White Waltham Airfield Aug 7 (DJB), 710 Cold Harbour Aug 21 (DJB) with further monthly max counts there of 350 on Sep 24, 200 Oct 2 and 311 Nov 14 (DJB). There were 360 at Waltham St Lawrence on Sep 5 (PNe), 500 Binfield on Sep 20 (PNe), 125 including some Scandinavian Herring Gulls at Colnbrook on Oct 29 (PBT), c100 Smiths Lawn, Windsor Gt Pk on Nov 14 (DJB) and 500 at Bucklebury on Dec 19 (DJR), a count that is surely a record for W Berks! A strikingly leucistic ad was present at QMR on Nov 21 (CDRH).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Rare winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Two records this year, both at QMR; in the first winter a w/p ad was located in the roost on Jan 1 but was only seen again on Jan 23 (CDRH). In the second winter a 2w was found in the roost on Dec 12–14 (CDRH) it was seen again in Jan 2011.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 16 locations, 4 in W Berks, 4 in M Berks and 8 in E Berks. The monthly status based on max counts at all sites is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East Berks sites	4	1	2	1	2	1	0	3	2	1	2	2
Number of birds	255	1	4	1	3	1	0	9	18	22	65	67
Mid Berks sites	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Number of birds	7	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
West Berks sites	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Number of birds	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total number of birds	264	5	4	2	5	1	0	10	18	23	66	71

Analysis of the table clearly shows that this species is under recorded (note the almost total lack of E Berks records in Feb!) however away from the extreme east of the county; this species now appears to be less common than Yellow-legged Gull! **First winter:** the highest counts of the year occurred in January with 107 at Colnbrook on Jan 2 and 145 at QMR on Jan 5 (CDRH); no doubt involving many of the same birds. The largest count in M Berks was 6 at Moatlands

GP on Jan 17 (MFW) and only 2 singles were noted in W Berks; 1 at Speen on Jan 1 (GT) and a 1w at Lower Fm GP on Jan 1 and 17 (NC; SAG). **Spring/Summer:** there was the usual scattering of records throughout the county with a 1w at QMR on Apr 3 (CDRH), 1 flying over Lower Fm GP on Apr 17 (IW), 1 Theale Main GP on May 5 and 2 ads there on May 14 (RCr), 2 (ad and subad) at QMR before flying toward Horton GPs on May 17 (CDRH), 1 ad Horton GPs May 23 (CDRH) and an imm at QMR on Jun 20 (CDRH). **Autumn/Second winter:** the first was a 3s at Burnthouse La GP on Aug 1 (MFW). Numbers slowly increased with the first double figure count of 14 (13 ad 1juv) occurring at Colnbrook on Sep 18 (CDRH). Once again QMR held most birds with monthly max counts of 22 Oct 31, 56 Nov 21 and 65+ Dec 29 (CDRH). Elsewhere the highest count was 9 ads at Cold harbour on Nov 14 (DJB). Again there were very few M and W Berks records, none of more than 1 bird!

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

Another poor year with just 4 records involving 14 birds. The first 3 records occurred in late spring with single ads at QMR on May 17 departing to the W and Jun 15 which flew in from the south and departed to the NE (CDRH) and at Hosehill Lake on May 25 which departed high to the W (KEM). The June record is the latest spring record since 1999 when an ad visited QMR on Jun 21. The fourth record came in Nov when a flock of 11 (9ads 2 juvs) were present at QMR for 10 minutes on Nov 6 (CDRH)

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Uncommon passage migrant (Amber Listed)

2010 was a fairly uneventful year with 21 records involving up to 43 birds. **Spring:** began with 1 s/p at Black Swan Lake, Dinton Pastures on May 2 (BTB *et al.*). There were further single birds on May 10 at Black Swan Lake (GE per FJC) and Moatlands GP (RRi). The main spring passage occurred from May 20 to 23 with 1 Theale Main GP May 20 (KEM), 2 there on May 21 (RCr) with 1 visiting Moatlands GP the same day (ABT; DJB), 2 Horton GP (CDRH) and 1 Woolhampton GP (GEW; KEM) on May 22 and finally 1 QMR on May 23 (CDRH). **Autumn:** the first was a juv at Theale Main GP on Aug 17 (KEM). There followed better passage in Sept with a steady flow of records from 4 sites between Sep 4 to 15 beginning with 5 (1ad 4juvs) passing through QMR on Sep 4 then 9 (1ad 8juvs) there feeding briefly before departing to the SW on Sep 5 (CDRH). Elsewhere 2 ads were on Theale Main GP on Sep 5 (KEM) and up to 6 juvs were noted there on Sep 7 (RJB; RCr; KEM) with 1 juv still present on Sep 8–9 (KEM) then 3 juvs on Sep 11–12 (ABT; KEM). Back at QMR a mostly w/p ad and 1 juv were present on Sep 8 and another juv passed through on Sep 12 (CDRH). The only W Berks report was of 1 juv at Lower Fm GP on Sep 9. Finally an ad was located on Moatlands GP on Sep 15 (RCr)

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon passage migrant (Amber Listed)

A slightly better year than 2009 with 6 records involving 10 birds. **Spring:** there were 2 records; 2 were found resting on an island at Padworth La GP on Apr 3 (JRe; KEM) and 1 visited Black Swan Lake, Dinton Pastures on Apr 30 (PBT). **Autumn:** all records came from QMR beginning with a w/p ad on Aug 19 then an ad with a begging juv for 40 minutes on Aug 28 before flying off ESE, another ad with a well grown juv briefly on Aug 31 and finally an ad and juv briefly on Sep 8 departing to SSW (all CDRH).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 52 locations throughout the county of which 16 could be classed as regular sites, 7 of which held breeding pairs later in the summer. **Spring:** a March report came from the R Kennet at Lower Denford on Mar 24 (RHar). A further scattering of early April records occurred before the main arrival commenced from mid-month onwards into May. High counts involved 20 Dorney W (DJB) and 19 Theale Main GP (KEM) on Apr 25, 20 Theale Main GP (PD) and 14 nearby at Moatlands GP (ABT) on May 2, 15 Old Slade NR May 7 (CDRH) and 15 Summerleaze GP on May 11 (CDRH). **Breeding:** as already mentioned, breeding was attempted at 7 locations: at Lower Fm GP 1 pair hatched 1 chick in Jul (MO), 3 pairs bred at Padworth Lane GP fledging 6 young (KEM), 16+ pairs bred on Lea Fm GP, Dinton Pastures CP 25 juvs being present on Aug 10 (FJC), c10 pairs bred at Eversley GPs where 15 chicks were ringed on Jul 3 (TGB) however due to predation (probably by Mink) only 2-4y fledged (MGLR), 9 chicks were ringed at Thatcham Discovery Centre on Jun 19 (IW; JL), 14 pair reported as nesting on Twyford GPs on Jun 8 (ABT) but outcome not known and 1 pair failed at Woolhampton GPs (KEM). **Autumn:** some large flocks were reported from late July including 24 Horton GPs on Jul 31 which included a s/p ad with a wholly scarlet red bill that had been first noted on Jul 30 (CDRH). High Aug/Sep counts involved 43 Horton GPs on Aug 2-4 (CDRH), 33 including 20 flying S at Lea Fm GP on Aug 23 (FJC), a flock of 71 (95% adults) flew over QMR also on Aug 23, a flock of 63 (90% adults) flying SE over QMR Aug 26 (CDRH) and 33 Theale Main GP on Sep 5 (ABT). The last records of the year involved 2 1w's at QMR on Sep 29 (CDRH) and 1 Wraysbury GPs on Oct 10 (MHu).

The sightings of three migrant flocks during August (two on the same day!) are notable, especially since there are very few previous records in the county bird reports; however it is possible that some were not reported because they were unidentified 'commic' terns. The above flocks were seen well enough to confirm the species and both the QMR flocks were composed of at least 90% adults.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Uncommon passage migrant (Amber Listed)

An unusual year for this species, as the majority of records came from the east of the county; the usually productive Theale GPs having a poor year only recording 6 birds spanning both migration periods. **Spring passage:** began on Apr 25 when 2 flew E over QMR (CDRH) and 1 lingered at Dorney W (RN *et al.*). There followed records from 5 locations in early May with 1 Theale Main GP May 1 (KEM) and 4 there on May 2 (KEM; ABT), 5 visited Dorney W also on May 2 (RN *et al.*) with another there on May 3 (WAS) and 8 passed through QMR May 2 with another on May 3 all heading NE (CDRH). One was feeding with Common Terns at Old Slade NR on May 3 increased to 3 on May 4 then 1 on May 7 (CDRH) finally 1 moved through Eversley GPs on May 8 (IHB). **Autumn passage:** apart from 2 ads passing through QMR on Jul 26 (CDRH), all records were for Sept when just 2 juvs were reported; 1 at Theale Main GP on Sep 4-5 (MFW *et al.*) and 1 QMR on Sep 5 (CDRH).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Abundant urban resident

High counts involved 135 Slough Jan 28 (BDC), 149 Bracknell Feb 5 (PJC), 160 Strand Water area Cookham on Mar 14 (BDC) with 330 there on May 1 (BDC), 300 Bracknell

Town Centre on Jun 12 (PJC) and 165 Reading Town Centre on Dec 31 (JP). There were numerous urban breeding records all spanning Mar-Jul however 1 pair was observed with juvs at a nest site under a bridge in Reading on Jan 6 (MFW).

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Common resident and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

First winter: somewhat under recorded throughout most of the county, all of the higher counts being from the east with c90 Colnbrook (CDRH) and 150 Windsor Gt Pk (PJC) on Jan 2, 400+ Poets Lawn Windsor Gt Pk on Feb 11 (DJB) and 185 White Place Fm Cookham on Mar 9 (BDC). **Spring/Summer:** flocks could still be found in the spring where at Remenham Hill 152 on Apr 27 had increased to 256 on May 11 (CDRH). Evidence of breeding was widespread, nesting pairs or fledged juvs being noted from 32 sites with high concentrations coming from Swinley Pk where 14 territories were located (DJB), Eversley GPs where 10 nest boxes were occupied (MGLR) and Virginia Water where 5 nest sites were located plus several juvs on Jun 4 (DJB). The importance of Windsor Gt Pk to this species was emphasized by the number of BTO tetrads confirming breeding and also a gathering of 110 birds feeding on Smiths Lawn on Jun 13 (DJB). Late breeding was confirmed at both Padworth Com (TGB) and Eversley GPs (MGLR) where 2nd or 3rd broods fledged in Oct. **Autumn/Second winter:** the first flocks were seen in Aug when 95 were present at Colnbrook on Aug 15 (CDRH), 108 Windsor Gt Pk on Aug 18 (RMH) and 64 at Englefield on Aug 25 (RCr). Numbers peaked in Sep with 400+ were in fields by Woodlands Park on Sep 1-19 (DJB) and 100+ were located at West End on Sep 19 (ABT). Apart from 59 at Cookham on Oct 21 (BDC) no flocks numbered more than 50 for the rest of the year.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

First winter: counts of 500 or more came from 10 localities, high counts being c1500 Great Meadow Pond Feb 7 (DJB), 2000 Streatley Warren Feb 13 (ABT) and c1000 Bury Down Mar 9 (JHa). **Second winter:** 500 or more were reported from 8 locations; the first such count involved 500+ at Ruscombe on Sep 19 (ABT) and probably involved local birds. Passage was first noticed in late Oct when 220 flew S/SSE over QMR on Oct 17 (CDRH) and was followed by 583 flying S over Great Meadow Pond on Oct 24 (DJB). The main influx occurred on Nov 6-7 when 780 flew S/SSW over QMR on the 6th (CDRH) and 2260 flying S/SSW over QMR (CDRH) and at least 3620 flying S/SW over Great Meadow Pond (DJB) both from 0745-1000hrs on Nov 7. Further west, 350 flew S over Wokingham on Nov 7 (PBT; EN). After this there were no counts exceeding 1000 birds, the highest being 800 near Compton on Nov 20 (AMH).

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident

Although still common and widespread throughout the county, most reports involved 1-19 individuals. Higher counts were 20 Wraybury Feb 6 (CRW), 20 Waltham St Lawrence Feb 7 (BDC), 150 Bracknell Town Centre Jun 12 (PJC), 80 Hanworth Bracknell Jun 13 (PJC), 34 East Ilsley Jun 27 (GDS) and 30+ North Ascot Aug 29 (RJD). Breeding was under-recorded but enough records were submitted to show that it occurred throughout most of the county.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Now an uncommon and extremely local summer visitor which continues to decline (Red Listed)

Records were received from 15 locations, 9 in W Berks, 2 in M Berks and 4 in E Berks. Of these 15 locations, 10 only recorded birds on 1 date thus it is likely that at least some of these sites only hosted transient birds; the true summer population may therefore be as low as 6 singing males/pairs! The first spring returnee appeared at one of the few still regular sites left in the county; Woolhampton GPs on Apr 19 (MHu). Numbers here had increased to 3 by Apr 27 (NC) and 2 birds regularly sang throughout May/June. It is possible that 2 pairs bred here as a fledged juv was noted on Jul 23–26 (KEM) and a pair with 2 juvs was seen on Aug 15 (SNP). The last report from Woolhampton GPs and the county was on Aug 19 (KEM). Elsewhere likely territories were discovered at Brimpton with 1 on Apr 28 (GEW) and singing on Apr 29 and Jun 27 (JPM), Aldermaston GPs with 2 displaying May 14 and song heard on May 26 and 29 (JPM), 1 was noted at Decoy Heath on Jun 20 (JLe) and Jul 11 (TGB) and 1 was singing at Nuptown from late Jun (RPa) to at least Jul 5 (CDRH). Away from these locations, the only multiple count involved 2 at Freeman's Marsh on May 4 (RGS) otherwise single birds were reported from Sandhurst RMA Apr 21 (PJC), Roundoak Piece May 18 (NC), Stockcross (song) on May 22 (SAG), Lower Fm Trout Lake May 23 (NC), Fifield Jun 25 (WAN), Catmore Jun 26 (GDS), Midgham GP Jul 18 (MFW) and Thatcham Marsh (song) on Jul 24 (IW; JL).

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Common resident in the east of the county, uncommon elsewhere

The continued westward spread of this species, especially along the Thames Valley has now made it a fairly common resident as far west as the east of Reading, however it is still a rare visitor further west. The monthly site status based on records received is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of sites in W Berks	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No. of sites in M Berks	5	6	3	6	5	4	3	3	5	8	9	4
No. of sites in E Berks	18	9	5	7	8	8	9	5	13	17	15	10

First winter: high counts involved 67 in 5 flocks over Slough SF at dusk on Jan 2 (BDC), 25 Wraybury Jan 15 (DGC), 15 Maidenhead Court Mar 12 (DF) and 35 Wraybury Mar 28 (PEH). The highest M Berks count during the period consisted of 9 over Twyford on Jan 17 (Lfo). **Spring/Summer:** although widely reported throughout Mid and East Berks during the period, there were few counts that exceeded 10 birds. In Windsor Great Pk, 18+ were noted along Dukes Lane on May 20 and 15+ including a breeding pair were seen on Jun 18 (DJB) and nearby, 17 flew over Windsor Boys School on Jul 6 (SA). Apart from the already mentioned Windsor Gt Pk breeding record, there were a further 3 breeding records: a pair at a nest hole at Aston on May 19 (DJB), 1j at Odney, Cookham on Jun 7 (BDC) and a pair attending 2 juvs at Waltham St Lawrence on Jun 24 (BDC). Finally, the first W Berks record of the year was 1 at Woolhampton GPs on Apr 18 (NR). **Autumn/Second winter:** the first big flock of the autumn was of 140 flying to roost over Pinkneys Green on Aug 3 (PNe). Further records from this area during Sept culminated in 110 on Sep 12 (MJF; LJF). Other counts of 50 or more involved c50 flying E over Hurley on Sep 5 (SJF; FMF), 70 north over Slough on Oct 12 (PBT), 250–300 Windsor Gt Pk on Oct 18 (MHu) and 76 (in 6 flocks) west over Dorney W at dawn on Dec 5 and 101 (10 flocks) flying W there on Dec 27 (DJB). Two were noted at Woolhampton GPs on Dec 30 (NC; GEW).

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Locally common though declining summer visitor (Red Listed)

Records were received from 121 locations throughout the county, a higher than usual total, partially due to the ongoing BTO Bird Atlas. The table shows the monthly status based on records received:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of occupied sites	0	0	0	50	78	33	2	2	0	0	0	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	0	62	92	47	5	2	0	0	0	0

The first spring arrival was 1 at Woolhampton GPs on Apr 7 (NC), others followed from Apr 9 and birds were widespread by Apr 20. Most Apr/May reports involved 1–2 birds; however 3 were noted at Boxford on Apr 23 (RCla), Enbourne Apr 25 (RHar), Swinley Forest May 15 (DJB) and Dorney W on May 24 (DC). Although still widespread in early June, records soon dwindled as birds stopped calling and/or left the county. From Jun 15 to the months end records were only received from 6 sites. **Breeding:** was noted from 3 locations: a juv was located at Eversley GPs on Jun 29 (BMA; NS) and another juv was observed begging to its Reed Warbler foster parents at Bray GPs on Jul 30 (BDC). Finally at least 4 juvs were reared at Great Meadow Pond (DJB). **Autumn:** passage was noted at 2 sites in Aug: a juv flew SSE over QMR on Aug 19 (CDRH) and a late adult was nearby at the Arthur Jacob NR, Horton on Aug 23 (CDRH).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Uncommon but widespread resident (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Records were received from an encouraging 90 locations this year, 51 in W Berks, 23 in M Berks and 16 in E Berks. All but 1 of non-breeding records involved 1–2 birds, the exception being 3 at Padworth Lane on Jan 12 (GJSu). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 31 locations and involved at least 33 pairs. It is known that at least 3 pairs failed but it is probable that most of the other pairs were successful and where details are known, it appears that most nests fledged 2–3 young. As in previous years, most of the breeding data came from Mid and West Berks where there are monitored nest box schemes. This year data was supplied by the Pang Valley Barn Owl Project, S Croft of Wokingham Borough Council and the NRG. Isolated breeding records were provided by RGS, DRG, JWar, ICB, DJS and BDC. In East Berks, where there are no nest box schemes, the only probable breeding record came from Windsor Gt Pk where 2 probable juvs were encountered on Aug 4 (RMH). Finally 1 was observed fighting with a Tawny Owl over the possession of a nest box at Fobney on Nov 23 (DAMD).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Widespread and locally common resident

Birds were reported from 79 locations, 20 in W Berks, 17 in M Berks and 42 in E berks. Most records involved 1–2 birds; higher counts involved 3 territorial pairs at Eversley GPs during the summer (MGLR), 5 Legoland, Windsor on Aug 4 and possibly 6 there on Sep 17 (RMH), 4 Warfield Nov 10 (PAC) and 3 Hell Corner Fm Inkpen on Nov 25 (LS). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 15 locations involving 16 pairs and was probable at a further 3 sites where birds were noted at previous nesting sites at 2 locations and courtship was noted at the third.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Widespread resident, common in suitable habitat including some urban areas

Records were received from 126 locations throughout the county. Most records involved 1–3 birds (usually heard calling), higher counts involved 4 Stanmore Feb 25 (JL), 4 Inkpen Mar 23 (RHar), 4 Windsor Gt Pk Aug 15 (RMH) and 7 Lower Green Inkpen on Oct 18 (RHar).

Breeding: was confirmed at 21 locations involving 28 pairs. Most records were of single broods of calling young, however 6 nests were located and all were successful. High concentrations included 3 pairs breeding in the Lower Green/Inkpen area rearing at least 7 young (RHar) and 6 broods (calling young) were located within Windsor Gt Pk on Jul 3 (RMH).

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Rare resident and scarce winter visitor

Records from the usual county boundary site suggest that a pair bred on the Berks side of the county boundary! An ad was observed bringing food to calling young on Jun 2 (RJG) and 2 juvs were heard on Jun 24 (PBT) on both occasions the young were calling from inside Berks. There were no reports submitted from the usual site in Oxon. Other records from this area involved 1 on May 15 (ANS) and 1 ad on Jul 5 (MFW). At the regular roost-site 5–6 birds were seen during January, with 8 there in December (CDRH).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

An interesting year for this species! Records were received from 10 locations throughout the county, 5 of which reported birds during a stronger autumn passage than usual. However the highlight of the year may refer to the first breeding record of this species for Berks (details of a not fully fledged juv taken into care at Tilehurst Animal Refuge in July 1979 do not give a precise location as to where the bird was found so there is a possibility that the breeding site was outside of Berks). **First winter:** all records came from the West Ilsley Gallops; a max of 6 were noted at Bury/Cow Down on Jan 23 (JE), the highest Feb count there was 3 on Feb 17 (CDRH) and on 25 (DF) and then 4 were noted on Mar 7 (RCW). The last records of the period involved 1 at nearby Hodcott Down on Mar 9 (JHa) and 2 at Cow Down on Mar 13 (RR). **Spring:** the only record involved a migrant hunting beside the M4 at Winnersh on Apr 1 (RJB). **Summer:** a report of an ad attending a recently fledged juv on a BTO Atlas visit to the strictly private Welford MoD base on Jul 24 (RCla per NDOC report) could be the first ever breeding record for Berkshire! Unfortunately the tight security of this site restricted earlier or later visits to confirm beyond any doubt that breeding took place here. **Autumn/Second winter:** 1 at Dorney W on Sep 29 (CCH; BR; GDB) was followed by 5 Oct records. The 5th ever for the site spent Oct 15–18 at Eversley GPs (MGLR) there followed 1 flying S over the Ridgeway on the Compton Downs on Oct 21 (CDRH), 1 over Woolley Down on Oct 30 (GDS), another appeared at Dorney W on the same day (per KPD) which remained in the DW/Slough SF area until at least Dec 17 (KPD) with 2 birds there on Nov 6 (RN), Nov 10 (KPD) and Dec 7 (WMo) there was another seen over the Compton Downs on Oct 31 (LPe). Further passage was noted over Woosehill Wokingham when 1 flew SE on Nov 7 (PBT) and 1 was hunting over scrubland at Fobney Island on Nov 21 (DAMD). The first returning wintering bird arrived back at Bury/Cow Down on Nov 13 (SAG) and at least 3 were in residence by Dec 11 (ABT).

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Regular summer visitor in small but fairly stable numbers in suitable habitat (Red Listed)

Records were received from 19 locations throughout the county (Swinley Forest is treated as 1 site), 6 in W Berks, 4 in M Berks and 9 in E Berks. The first of the year involved an extremely early individual seen in flight at Caesars Camp on Apr 27 (CRG). There followed a brief sighting at Padworth Com on May 10 (KJT per TGB) before the main arrival proceeded from mid-May and by the months end most of the main sites had been occupied. The table shows the minimum number of birds (churring males in brackets) reported from all locations:

Site	No of birds	Observer/s	Site	No of birds	Observer/s
Aldermaston area	2 (1)	JLe	South Ascot	5 (4)	PM; MSFW; DJS
Ascot Heath	1 (1)	RJD	Swinley Forest	46 (46)	PJC; CRG; DJS
Bucklebury Com	2 (2)	RP	Swinley Pk	1 (1)	MSFW
Decoy Heath	2 (1)	PD; TGB	Wasing Wood	2 (1)	RRi
Gorrick Wood	6 (3)	MSK; PJC	Welford	3	JHM
Greenham Com	4 (3)	SAG; IW; JL	Wildmoor Heath	4 (4)	CRG; DJS
Nalder Plantation	2 (1)	SAG; JLS	Windsor Forest	1 (1)	HP
Padworth Com	5 (2)	RCW; TGB	Windsor Gt Pk	1 (1)	RMH
Round Oak Piece	5 (4)	PD	Wood End	2 (1)	BAJC; LJF
Snelsmore Com	3 (2)	PJO; IW; JL; RHar			

The total of at least 79 churring males is an increase on the modern day record total of 73 in 2004, the total of 46 churring males within the Swinley Forest SPA is a modern day high and for the first time in recent years birds were recorded from the highly disturbed NE of the forest (MSFW). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 4 locations and involved 5 pairs. Two pairs were known to have been successful (4 chicks being ringed-TGB) whilst another nest failed probably due to human disturbance! The outcome of the other 2 nests is not known (JLe; DJS). The last reports of the year came from the Padworth area where a female/imm was flushed from the road in Padworth at 0525hrs and a male churred briefly at 0600hrs on Padworth Com both on Aug 22 (TGB)

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common though declining passage migrant and summer visitor (Amber Listed)

Spring: the first of the year involved 1 bird over Dorney W on Apr 19 (BAJC) and 2 over Woolhampton GPs on Apr 20 (KEM). The only site to host more than 100 birds in April was Theale Main GP where 100+ were counted on the 25th (MFW) and 29th (KEM). By early May birds were common and widespread and reasonable numbers could be encountered at most gravel pit sites. The highest counts in May were 600+ at Theale Main GP on May 27 (RCr) with 500+ there on May 29 (KEM) plus 300+ at Woolhampton GPs (NC) on the same day. Other sites holding 100+ in May were Eversley GPs, Hosehill Lake and Lower Fm GP. **Summer:** bands of screaming swifts chasing each other throughout many of our built up areas point to a fairly healthy breeding population, however as is usual for this species, there were no confirmed cases of breeding! Some sizeable flocks continued to be seen in Jun/Jul, the highest being 150+ over Theale Main GP on Jun 19 (RCr). In July c100 were feeding over North Standen House on Jul 11 (JWar) and 200+ were over Lower Fm GP on Jun 16 (NC). **Autumn:** numbers declined during August, the highest counts being 16 Moatlands GP Aug 20 (RCr), 21 Lower Fm GP Aug 21 and 10 there Aug 29 (IW; JL) and c50 over Dorney W on

Aug 27 (DLo). There were more Sept records than usual with birds reported from 10 locations involving at least 28 birds. The highest counts were 5 over Emmer Green on Sep 2 (ABT) and 5 over QMR on Sep 8 (CDRH). The last record of the year was of 1–2 over Theale Main GP on Sep 13 (KEM)

ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

Rare vagrant

The fifth record for Berkshire involved a short staying and elusive bird that visited several locations in the Thames Valley near to Wargrave. At 1257hrs on Mar 20, CDRH located the bird as it flew NE over Borough Marsh. It was not seen again until 1345hrs when CDRH relocated the bird feeding over poly-tunnels near to Wargrave STW; however it stayed for only a few minutes thus frustrating the gathering numbers of local observers eager to see the bird. There was no further sign until 1525hrs when CDRH and DJB relocated the bird at Willow Lane just N of Wargrave but once again it quickly moved on and this time was not seen again!

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Common but thinly distributed resident (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Despite recent cold winters, kingfishers continue to be well established on Berkshires rivers and other wetlands. Records were received from 121 locations throughout the county. The table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	22	16	17	18	27	24	16	28	29	28	22	29
Min. number of birds reported	24	18	20	26	32	31	32	37	37	37	28	39

Totals in the table may reflect the population dynamics of this species, the lower numbers probably pointing to lower numbers remaining to winter within the county and maybe to a higher mortality rate especially in 1st winter birds. The higher autumn and 2nd winter numbers may reflect breeding success. It will be interesting to see if numbers are maintained into 2011 after the severe weather experienced in Dec 2010. As usual most records came from our rivers; the number of sites located is shown below:

River	No of sites	River	No of sites
R Blackwater	3	R Lambourn	7
The Bullbrook	1	R Loddon	9
R Colne	1	Maidenhead Ditch	4
The Cut	3	R Pang	2
R Dunn	2	Roundmoor Ditch	1
The Emmbrook	2	R Thames	27
R Enbourne	1	Twyford Brook	1
Foudrey Brook	1	White Brook	2
Jubilee River	3	Others	18
R Kennet	33	Total	121

Most records were of 1–3 birds. Apart from breeding records, higher counts were 4 Cheapside

Jul 29 (RMH), 4 Bray GPs Oct 30 (DJB), and 4 Black Swan Lake, Dinton Pastures Nov 28 (FJC). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 13 sites involving 14 pairs; however it is likely that many pairs bred without being discovered as the totals here reflect more, the level of observer coverage than Kingfisher abundance.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Scarce passage migrant, formally bred (Red Listed)

Three records this year, all from W Berks and in the autumn. One showed well to its finder at Brimpton on Aug 31 (GEW); another was photographed in a garden in Harmandsworth, Bracknell on Sep 2 and finally one was on Greenham Com on Sep 9 (AEDH). The table below shows the Wrynecks county status since 2000

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No of Spring records	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of Autumn records	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	3

It is clear that Wrynecks are getting scarcer and scarcer! In the previous decade (1991–2000) 12 birds were recorded compared to just 9 since 2001. The last spring record was the popular territorial male that was present at Wishmoor Bottom for 9 days in May/June 2001.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident (Amber Listed)

Recorded throughout the county although it appears less common in urban areas and on the higher parts of the Downs where breeding habitat is scarce. There were some reasonable counts submitted the highest being 7 High Standinghill Woods on Mar 27 (DJB), 7+ Cranbourne Chase Apr 3 (DJB), 10 Burghfield GPs Apr 4 (RCr) and 7 Lower Fm GP Aug 11 (PT). **Breeding:** was reported from 33 locations, most records referring to fledged juvs. Two juvs were ringed at both Greenham Com (IW; JL) and Brimpton (JPM) on Jun 27.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common and increasing resident

Our most common woodpecker which has continued to increase both nationally and locally within Berks. Records were received from throughout the county; high counts included 13 Swinley Forest on Apr 9 (DJB) and 23 Virginia Water on Jun 4 (DJB). **Breeding:** at least 80 pairs were confirmed as breeding from 68 localities but breeding is certain to have occurred at many more sites. High counts involved 4 breeding pairs at both South Forest Windsor (DJB) and Whiteknights Pk (PG).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident, whose numbers continue to decline (Red Listed)

A better year (due in part to the added records from the BTO Atlas) with records coming from 31 locations, 11 in W Berks, 8 in M Berks and 12 in E Berks. Analysis of these records show that no less than 24 locations only recorded the species on 1 occasion; this could be due to lack of coverage at certain localities, but recent behavioural studies have revealed that unpaired individuals range widely (*Brit. Birds* 105: 294–307). **Jan/Mar:** records from this period began

with a male observed for 10 minutes at Knowl Hill on Jan 4 (JHe) was followed by 1 at Culham Court Aston Jan 5 (PWa), 1 Aldermaston Jan 17 (RRi), 1 calling Frogmill, Hurley Jan 18 (SJF) and heard again Feb 20 (SJF; FMF), 1 regular at Eversley GPs from Jan 19 to Feb 20 (MGLR), a male, Valley Gardens Windsor Great Pk Jan 29 (DJB), 1 Thatcham Marsh Jan 30 (IW; JL), 1 Hosehill Lake Feb 1 (JLe), 1 female Twyford GPs Feb 5 (RRi), 1 calling Kintbury Cress Beds from Feb 7 to Apr 14 (RGS), 1 Bagnor Feb 17 (RJ), 2 Cheapside Mar 6 (PM), 1 calling Inkpen on Mar 6, 27 (RHar) and Mar 28 (NCh), 1 heard drumming at Silwood Mar 13 (RJD), 1 Padworth Com Mar 22 (PCOP) and 1 calling High Standinghill Woods on Mar 27 (DJB). **Apr/Jun:** only reported from 8 locations during the period, the first records came from Great Meadow Pond where birds were regular from Apr 4 to Sep 19 (DJB). At least 2 territorial males and 1 female were involved and it is thought by the observer that breeding probably occurred but this was not confirmed. Other Apr sightings involved 1 female Wasing Wood on Apr 4 and Jun 15 (RRi), 1 at Tilehurst on Apr 6 (RCo), 1 calling at Denford Mill Apr 15 (RGS) and 1 Caesars Camp on Apr 26 and 29 (RM) and heard on May 6 (MSK). Later 1 was reported from Warren Row on May 9 (ABT) and 1 at Greenham Com on Jun 22 (JHa). **Breeding:** was only confirmed in Windsor Gt Pk where a female was feeding a juv while a male called nearby at Dark Wood on Jun 18 (DJB). **Jul/Sep:** there were few records during this period and apart from records already mentioned in Windsor Gt Pk all occurred in Sep. One was calling at Frogmill, Hurley on Sep 17 (SJF; FMF) and another flew across Lower Fm GP on Sep 25 (IW). **Oct/Dec:** there were 6 records during the period. One was calling at Boxford Com on Oct 8 (IW; JL), a male saw seen at Padworth on Oct 21 (GJSu), 1 reported from Swinley Pk on Nov 21 (TS), 1 Binfield Nov 23 (BDC), 1 Arborfield Cross Dec 24 (KGW) and 1 Lower Green Inkpen on Dec 25 (RHar). Finally a bird that was ringed at Lower Basildon on Sep 28 2003 was recaptured at the same site on Feb 6 2010 giving this bird an age of at least 6yrs 4mths and 9 days which is a national longevity record for this species.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Locally common summer visitor in areas of suitable habitat, uncommon in winter (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

Birds were reported from 21 locations throughout the county. **Jan/Feb:** there were no records in Jan; the first record of the year involved 1 singing at Greenham Com on Feb 5 (NC). There were 5 other Feb records: 1 singing Ufton Nervet Feb 7 (PH), 1 singing Welford Feb 13 (RCla), 1 singing Mount Hill Bagnor Feb 17–19 (JL), 1 Bagnor Feb 23 (JL) and 1 singing Padworth Com Feb 27 (MFW), unfortunately 3 of these locations did not record the species again in 2010. **Mar/Jun:** birds were present at 14 sites during the period. The main areas were Swinley Forest SPA where 18 territories were mapped (EBHS) with at least 1 pair breeding (PJC); 10 territories were located on Greenham Com (AEDH) with 1 possibly 3 pairs confirmed as breeding (IW; JL); South Ascot where 5 territories were located with 1 pair confirmed as breeding (DJB) and Snelsmore Com where 3 territories were found (MJT *et al.*). Away from these locations, numbers were much lower with 1 territory Wildmoor Heath (DJS), 1 Bagnor Cressbeds Mar 3 (JL), 1pr Wasing Woods Mar 5 (RRi), 2 Paices Wood Mar 12 then 1 in Apr-Jun (JLe), 1 singing Decoy Heath Mar 13 (CHy), 1 singing Ufton Nervet Mar 21 and 31 (PH; RCr) then 3 on May 18 (PH), 1 Padworth Com Apr 10 and 26 (PD; PH) (a family party there in July was presumed to have been birds from the Adjacent Burnt Com in Hants (PCOP), 1pr Bucklebury Com Apr 13 (ABT), 1 Round Oak Piece Apr 26–30 (PH) and 1 singing Swinley Pk May 4 (DJB). **Jul/Sep:** as surveys ended and observers turned their attention to different habitats, reports dramatically fell! Apart from the popular Greenham Com where counts peaked at 18 Aug 27(JL) and 21 Aug 29 (IW; JL) before dropping back to c10 in Sep-Oct, birds were only reported from 3 sites. A

juv visited Woolhampton GPs Jul 17 (PD), 1 was flushed from set-aside near Lowbury Hill Aug 13 (DJB) and 1 sang over Leverton on Sep 28 (PBy). **Oct/Dec:** the last records of the year involved 3 at Swinley Forest Oct 31 (BR) and singles at Greenham Common Nov 14 and Dec 14 (IW; JL).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common but declining (?) resident, passage migrant and winter visitor (Red Listed)

Skylarks were widely reported throughout the county with records up on previous years. In fact The State of the UK's Birds 2010 states that the long term decline this species has endured may have slowed and populations are now appearing to be stabilising. **First winter:** although reported from 42 locations in Jan/Feb, numbers appeared to be quite low; the only count to exceed 100 was 120 at Combe Hill on Jan 30 (DJB). Other interesting records involved passage birds with 66 flying south ahead of snow at Woosehill Wokingham on Jan 7 (PBT) and numbers moving west over Moatlands GP (PBT) and Pingewood GPs (KEM) on Jan 17. The first report of song came from Farley Hill with 2 singing on Jan 24 (RCMu). **Spring/Summer:** reported from over 100 locations from Mar-Jul with most holding singing birds. Most sites held between 1–9 birds, higher counts of singing birds came from the Ridgeway on the Compton Downs where 27 were singing on Apr 10 increasing to 30+ May 28 (DJB), 10 singing Kintbury Apr 24 (RHar), 10 singing Cold Harbour May 6 increasing to 16 singing Jun 13 (DJB), 26 singing Jealott's Hill May 15 (RCMu), of 100 present at Englefield on Jun 3, 35 were singing (RCr) with numbers increasing there to 120 by Jun 13 (RCr), 32 territories were located on Greenham Com (AEDH) and there were 10–15 territories at Woodlands Pk (DJB). **Breeding:** was only confirmed at 13 sites however this species is generally overlooked so it can be assumed that pairs bred widely throughout the county. **Autumn/Second winter:** records came from over 50 locations with numbers higher than in the first winter. Large flocks began to appear in Oct, high counts being 128 Cold Harbour Oct 2 (DJB), 175 Bury Down Oct 7 (DJB), 100+ Woodlands Pk Oct 11–25 (DJB), c300 Remenham Hill Oct 14–17 (CDRH) and 300 Englefield Oct 19 (RCr). No large flocks were reported in Nov however the cold weather in Dec produced an influx into the county, high counts being 200+ Compton Downs Nov 26 (ABT), 500 Bucklebury Dec 19 (DJR), 150 Horton Fields Dec 20–21 (CDRH) and 150 Great Shefford Dec 25 (GDS). The flock of 500 is the largest flock recorded in the county since 800 were at Eton Wick on Feb 11 1991.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Spring: first record occurred in mid-March with 1 Eversley GPs Mar 14 (MGLR) and 1 Woolhampton GP Mar 15 (GEW). Birds were reported from a further 7 locations by the months end with 50+ at Lower Fm GP Mar 28 (MFW) and Padworth La GP Mar 31 (KEM) the highest counts. As numbers increased in Apr/May larger flocks occurred with 160 Padworth La Floods Apr 1 (RJB), 300+ Woolhampton GPs Apr 7 (KEM), 200+ Lower Fm Trout Lake May 2 (NC), 100 Theale Main GP May 3 (RCr) and later, 350+ Lower Fm GP Jun 19 (IW; JL). **Breeding:** was reported from 11 sites: at the Blackpott's Viaduct, Eton, nesting activity was first noted on Mar 25 (BDC), on Apr 21 at least 5 pairs were using the drainage pipes (DJB) and 20+ were at the colony on Jun 14 (WAS), at least 30 were at nest holes at Hosehill Lake Apr 8 (RCO; RJB) and later reports indicate that breeding was successful (TABR). At least 15 were visiting the artificial nesting bank at Thatcham NDC Apr 17 (IW) and on Jul 17, juvs could be seen at 3 of the 10 occupied holes (SAG). A

colony of 20prs was in a dirt pile at Poyle on Apr 25 (CDRH) and at least 10 pairs were nesting in drain pipes at 2 sites on the K&A Canal at Reading (DPo; MJM). A new colony at Pingewood GPs had 38 excavated holes on May 3 (KEM) whilst the old site at Knowl Hill Brickpits hosted up to 24 birds in May (ABT) with juvs seen on Jun 10 (BDC). Five nest holes were found along the Thames at Windsor with juvs present on Jun 6 (KPD), elsewhere single pairs bred at Dinton Pastures CP (RM) and at Cookham (WAS). **Autumn:** the first large flocks appeared in July with 200+ Lower Fm GP (NC) and 100+ Woolhampton GP (KEM) on Jul 16. Theale Main GP held 300 Aug 29 increasing to c500 Aug 30 (RCr) and in Sep there were 100 Lower Fm GP Sep 11 (IW; JL) and 200+ Eversley GP Sep 16 (LTh). The last of the year were 3 Lower Fm GP (IW) and 1 Slough SF (CDRH) on Oct 3.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Spring: the first arrival was 1 Woolhampton GP Mar 17 (KEM) followed by 2 at Lea Fm GP, Dinton Pastures Mar 18 (FJC) with further March records from another 4 locations. Although widespread through Apr/May, numbers at most sites were disappointing, however there were some large counts including 100+ Woolhampton GPs Apr 1 (NC), 130 Moatlands GP Apr 25 (RCr), 300+ Woolhampton GPs May 2 (NC) and 250 Theale Main GP May 3 (RCr). **Breeding:** was reported from 59 locations (totals increased by BTO Bird Atlas) however most sites held only 1–2 pairs, the highest total reported involved 4+ pairs all successfully breeding at Heywood Fm Barns, Woodlands Pk (DJB). **Autumn:** birds were numerous during this period with counts of 100–200 reported from 10 locations, higher counts involved 350 Eversley GPs at dusk on Jul 25 (JMC), c300 flying south over Lower Fm GP Sep 11 (IW; JL) and 300+ Theale Main GP Sep 24 (KEM). Other records of interest include 80+ resting on a ploughed field in wet and windy weather at Cold Harbour Sep 24 (DJB) and c100 resting on the bank of QMR Sep 25 (CDRH). Good numbers continued to be seen in Oct with highs of 100+ Lower Fm GP (IW) and Farnborough Down (GDS) on Oct 3 and c100 flying SE in small groups over Lea Fm GP Oct 13 (FJC). The last records involved 1 SE over Burghfield GPs Oct 31 (JA) and 2 at Hurst on Nov 2 (FJC).

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

Locally common summer visitor and common passage migrant (Amber Listed)

The first spring arrivals were 4 birds at Cookham on Mar 28 (BR) [an earlier record from Eversley GPs on Mar 22 (MGLR) lacked details as to whether the bird was seen in Berks]. Although common and widespread by mid-April, large flocks were scarce, high counts being 300+ Lower Fm Trout Lake May 2 (NC) and 100 Woolhampton GPs May 3 (RCr) and 300+ there on May 29 (NC). **Breeding:** like the Swallow, breeding records have been inflated by records from the BTO Bird Atlas. Unfortunately many of these lack details of nest numbers, the largest fully reported colonies were 15+ occupied nests in Woodlands Pk (DJB) and 14 nests at Home Fm Woolley Pk (GDS). **Autumn:** counts of 100+ began in Aug with 150 Great Meadow Pond Aug 8 increasing to 400+ Aug 22 (DJB), 120 Woolhampton GP Aug 15 (SNP), 150 Bray GP Aug 17 (WAS) and 200 Theale GPs Aug 29 increasing to 250 Aug 30 (RCr). Heavy passage occurred in Sep with 11 sites reporting 100+ birds, high counts being c1000 Theale Main GP and the adjacent Moatlands GP on Sep 15–16 (RCr) then 400+ there Sep 25 (PD) and 300 Eversley GPs Sep 30 (RCMu). Passage continued into Oct with 100 Brimpton (GEW), 150 Wokingham STW (DJB) and 300+ White Waltham STW (DJB) all on Oct 1. Smaller counts of up to 50 were noted from a further 14 sites, the last being 2 south over Eversley GPs Oct 17 (RCMu).

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Locally common but declining summer visitor, uncommon passage migrant (Red Listed)

Records were received from 18 locations, 8 in W Berks, 2 in M Berks and 8 in E Berks.

Spring: first reports came on Apr 5 with 1 Padworth Com (PBT) and 2 at Wishmoor Bottom, Swinley Forest (NR). Fifteen locations held birds from Apr-Jun however 9 of these only reported birds on 1–3 consecutive days beginning with 1 Foliejon Pk Apr 27 (CDRH), 1 Englemere Pond May 1 (KPD), 1 Horton GPs May 3 (CDRH), 1 singing Greenham Com May 15 (BOC), 1 singing Round Oak Piece, Padworth May 18 (NC), 1 singing Arlington Grange May 19–21 (IW), 3 singing in the Combe Hill/Eastwick area Jun 2 (ABT), 1 sang at Combe Jun 19 (RHar) and 1 was heard singing on Bury Down Jun 24 (PD) but was not seen. Although it is probable that some of these records refer to territorial birds, it is likely that most were migrants. **Summer:** occupied territories were located at 6 sites, with multiple records coming from all. The maximum totals from these sites are shown below:

Site	Territories	Observers	Site	Territories	Observers
Bucklebury Com	4	ABT, NC, RF	South Ascot	6	DJB
Padworth Com	2	PBT, BDC, KEM, JLe	Swinley Forest	30	DJB, PJC, DJS
Snelsmore Com	6	IW, JL	Wildmoor Heath	2	BAJC, MJF, LJF

Breeding: although likely at all of the summering sites, it was only confirmed at Wildmoor Heath: ad feeding young Jun 3 (DJS) and Swinley Forest with 2 pairs feeding young in Wishmoor Bottom in June (DJB; PJC). **Autumn:** after 1 at West Woodhay Down on Jul 31 (IW), 1 was ringed at Wraysbury GPs in Aug (RRG), 1 was at Colnbrook on Aug 27–28 (CDRH), 2 Wishmoor Bottom Aug 28 (DJB) and finally 1 Greenham Com on Sep 4 (IW; JL).

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, locally common summer resident (Amber Listed)

Although often overlooked or ignored by observers, especially in the winter months; enough records were submitted to give some idea as to the status of this species in Berks throughout the year. The table shows the monthly status, based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	14	11	15	16	8	7	5	3	30	29	20	22
Min. number of birds	147	85	130	37	35	42	11	9	1009	828	117	353

First winter: largely under-reported during this period with most records involving 1–25 birds, higher counts involved 80+ Wokingham STW Jan 6–14 (DJB) and 30 Dorney W Mar 17 and 27 (BAJC; KPD). **Spring/Summer:** reported from 24 locations during the period. Most April records referred to wintering birds or migrants however some birds were back on breeding areas and song was heard at Avington (RHar), Compton Downs, 2 singing (DJB), Stanmore (IW), Inkpen (RHar) and Walbury Hill, 2 singing (DJB). The main stronghold for this species in Berks continues to be Greenham Com and in 2010 19 territories were mapped (AEDH). Other sites where singing males took up territories in May/June were Bury Down, 2 singing (ABT), Eversley GPs (PBT; DJB) and Wellbottom Down (CDRH). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 5 locations: Greenham Com, 1pr feeding yng May 11 (DJB), May 15 (DJB) and May 18 (RCr), 1pr feeding yng Bury Down Jun 4 and 18 (ABT), 1pr with 4y Lambourn Downs Jun 11 (CDRH), 1pr feeding yng Combe Jun 19 (RHar) and 2prs feeding yng at Lowbury Hill Jun 21 (CDRH). **Autumn/Second winter:** passage

began in Sep with 1 QMR on the 1st (CDRH). Heavy passage then ensued through Sep/Oct with high counts of 200 Horton Fields Sep 17–19 (CDRH), 160 Englefield Sep 22 (RJB), 132 Cold Harbour Oct 2 (DJB), c100 Bury Down Oct 7 (DJB) and 150 QMR Oct 17 (CDRH). November was a quieter month with no counts exceeding 25 birds, however numbers increased in Dec and some reasonably sized flocks were located, the largest being: 40 Horton Fields Dec 3 (CDRH), 60+ Colnbrook Dec 5 (CDRH), 100+ Wokingham STW Dec 20–23 (DJB) and 45 Pangbourne STW Dec 27 (ABT).

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Scarce passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

For the second successive year there were no spring records! In the autumn, birds were only reported from 2 locations and involved a minimum of 12 birds. At QMR passage began with singles on Sep 23 and 27 then 3 were present on Sep 29 and were followed by records of 1 Oct 5, 1 Oct 8, 1 Oct 10, 3 Oct 11, 1 Oct 16, 1 Oct 17–21, 2 Nov 7, 1 Nov 8–9 (CDRH), 1 Nov 10 (BGu), 1 Nov 20 (CDRH) and probably the same bird on Nov 21 (MMc). Away from QMR the only record was of a bird out of habitat feeding with Meadow Pipits on a ploughed field at Remenham Hill on Oct 14 (CDRH).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

After no first winter/spring birds there were 5 autumn/second winter records involving up to 5 birds, all from QMR. All records involved single birds, the first arriving on Oct 19 (CDRH), further sightings occurred on Nov 5 (MMc), Nov 9–10 (MMc; CDRH), Nov 14 (CDRH) and finally Dec 14 (MMc).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Common but declining passage migrant uncommon and local summer resident (Red Listed)

Records were received from 59 locations, 23 in W Berks, 15 in M Berks and 21 in E Berks. The table shows the monthly status based on submitted records.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	0	20	16	10	5	20	28	3	2	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	0	34	35	19	12	83	270	3	2	0

Spring: a light passage began in early April with 1 Borough Marsh Apr 6 (MFW) and 3 Woolhampton GPs Apr 7 (KEM). Birds quickly became widespread but no site held more than 5 birds at any one time, the high of 5 coming from Pit Down Lambourn Apr 24 (ABT). Numbers remained low in May, even usually productive sites reported just a few birds i.e. just 1 was reported from Dorney W and only 4 from QMR! However song was noted at 9 locations later in the month and unusually a male visited DJB's garden pond in Woodlands Pk on May 13. **Breeding:** was reported from Beedon Com (ICB), Brightwalton (ICB), Cold Harbour (DJB; RRi), East Ilsley (GDS), Englefield (RCr), Lambourn Downs (CDRH), Stanmore (IW ;JL) and Waltham St Lawrence (PBT) all involving 1 pair. At Woodlands Pk, 3 pairs all successfully bred (2 in a bean crop and 1 in wheat) and at least 6 juvs were fledged (DJB). **Autumn:** it is probable that yellow wagtails were under recorded in July, all records coming from proved or potential breeding sites. Passage began in Aug, the first migrants being singles at Lower Fm GP (NC) and over the Compton Downs

(DJB) on Aug 13. As passage increased, small flocks began to appear, the largest being 15 Portdown Hungerford Aug 19 (JBut), 8 Cock Marsh Aug 25 (WAS), 9 Sonning Meadows Aug 26 (ABT) and 8 QMR Aug 30 (MFW) increasing to 9 Aug 31 (CDRH). Passage was heaviest in Sept (totals may have far exceeded the min no of birds shown in the table) and at several sites records suggest that birds were present throughout most of the month i.e. QMR. Double figure counts came from QMR with 15 on Sep 1 (CDRH), 17 Sep 2 (MMc) and 20 Sep 18 (CDRH), Cock Marsh numbers peaked at 41 Sep 4 (DJB) and 6th (WAS), Sonning Meadows, with 36 Sep 9, 49 Sep 12, 42 Sep 16 and after a lull, 18 Sep 30 (ABT), Greenham Com, 10 Sep 10 (JL), Eton Wick, 12 Sep 18 (WAS), Lower Fm GP peaked at 19 on Sep 17 (AEDH) and there were 12 at Freeman's Marsh Sep 18 (SAG). The latest records usually occur in Oct so records of 1 at QMR on Oct 8–9 (CDRH) and 1 Englefield on Oct 19–20 (RCr) would normally be good last dates for the year! However in 2010 there were 2 Nov records: 1 Canon Court Maidenhead Nov 1 (BDC) and 1 QMR Nov 11 (MMc). These are the first Nov records since 2002 and the latest since the December bird of 2003.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Locally common resident and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

This common resident of our wetlands was reported from 109 locations throughout the county. Most records involved 1–5 birds at locations as diverse as weirs to sewage farm sprinkler beds. Some unusual habitats where birds were encountered included a timber mill in Swinley Pk, where a pair is resident (DJB), arable farmland miles from water at Cold Harbour Jun 6 (MSFW) and at least 5 gardens. High counts involved 6 (3prs) regular at Wokingham STW all year peaking at 8+ (some juvs) Aug 3 (DJB) and 6 Lower Denford Aug 4 (RHar). **Breeding:** was reported from 17 locations, most records involving single pairs however 2 pairs bred at Eversley GPs (MGLR) and Wokingham STW (DJB).

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Recorded throughout the county in all open habitats, very few records came from woodland sites. **First winter:** high counts involved 250+ Wokingham STW Jan 4–14 (DJB), 210 Sandhurst STW Jan 19 (JMC), 50+ Woodlands Pk Feb 3 (DJB), 59 Borough Marsh Feb 5 (ABT) and 93 Newbury Mar 14 (SAG). **Breeding:** confirmed at 60 locations and included sites such as downland farms, rivers and urban areas. The high numbers reported this year is mainly due to the BTO Bird Atlas, in most years the species is generally overlooked. **Second winter:** flocking was widespread but counts were usually below 50 birds. High numbers were reported from Amners Fm Pingewood with 50+ Sep 25 (KEM) and Wokingham STW where c100 were present Oct 1, numbers increasing to c300 on Dec 20–23 (DJB). Elsewhere 50 were on QMR Oct 15 (CDRH), 100 roosted near to the Madejski Stadium Reading Nov 1 (SR), 70 Ham Island STW Dec 24 (RMH) and 50 Pangbourne STW Dec 27 (ABT). A melanistic individual (all white plumage replaced by sooty grey) was on Smiths Lawn, Windsor Great Pk Jun 13 (DJB) and an aberrant bird with extensive white on the head and mantle was present at QMR Aug 30 (MFW)

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

Uncommon passage migrant

Records came from 7 locations, 1 in W Berks, 3 M Berks and 3 E Berks. **Spring passage:** first reported on Mar 30 when a male visited QMR (CDRH) and was followed there by 1m

Apr 2–3, 7 (4m 3f) Apr 7, 1f Apr 21 and 1 May 5 (CDRH). Elsewhere singles were noted at Eversley GPs on Apr 2 (GR), Apr 19 (NS; BMA) and May 3 (GR), 1f Crockham Heath Apr 9 (CDRH), 1m Dorney W Apr 19 (DJB) and single females at Burnthouse La GP on May 14 and 24 (KEM). **Autumn:** away from QMR, 2ads were located at Twyford GPs on the early date of Aug 28 with 1 still present Aug 29 (ADB) and an ad male at Amners Fm Pingewood on Sep 25 (MFW; KEM). At QMR passage commenced from Sep 4 (1m) and was followed by 1 1w Sep 5–13, 1ad f Sep 17–20 joined by a 1w on the latter date, another 1w Sep 23, 1 1w male (in advanced body plumage) Sep 24 then further 1w birds on Sep 28–30, Oct 4 and Oct 15 (all CDRH).

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus*

Irregular winter visitor in varying numbers, locally common in eruption years

For the second time in only 7 winters a major irruption of this enigmatic species was to affect Berkshire. Birds began to appear on the British north east coast from early Oct and numbers quickly swelled so that flocks in-excess of 1000 birds were present in the north of the country by early Nov. The speed that this invasion spread south and west was much greater than in the 2004/5 irruption and the vanguard had reached Berks by early Nov. Birds were reported from 33 locations/areas throughout the county and the weekly status based on records received is shown in the table however the totals within the table exclude some Bird Guide records due to lack of details.

	Nov 6–12	Nov 13–19	Nov 20–26	Nov 27 – Dec 3	Dec 4–10	Dec 11–17	Dec 18–24	Dec 25–31
No. of sites	1	0	1	5	5	12	17	20
Min. number. birds	5	0	20	99	88	210	730	474

The format of this account is based on that of 2005 so that areas are in order based on the date of their first record followed by all records of note for that area. **Bracknell:** first reported from the Forest Pk/Worlds End/Birch Hill area on Nov 6 when 5 were present (TS *et al.*) to Nov 11 (MO). Sixteen then arrived on Nov 20 (TS; MFW) and numbers increased daily to peaks of 60 Nov 30 (RRi) 70–80 Dec 3 (TS) and 80+ Dec 18 (MHu), the last was seen on Dec 27. Further north at Priestwood, 9 were present on Dec 24 (DJB). **Thatcham:** mobile birds at several sites involved 22 on Nov 28 (MJD), 8 Nov 29 (MO), 1 to Dec 4 (MO) then 14 Dec 19 (NC) and the last was 1 Dec 25 (GEW). **Maidenhead:** 2 at North Town Nov 29 had increased to 5 Dec 10 and 10 Dec 31 (BAJC). Elsewhere in the town, 13 were in the Highway/All Saints area Dec 3 (BCr) and 20 there Dec 30 (BAJC), 12 were found in Cox Green Dec 13 (BR) and 4 were on the Cranbrook Estate Dec 14 (BDC). **Silwood Pk:** 1 Dec 1–3 (PSa). **Pinkneys Green:** 13 Dec 3 (PNe) had increased to 51 Dec 19 then 91 Dec 22 (MJF) down to 70 Dec 25 and 10 Dec 26 (PNe). **Barkham:** 3 Dec 5 (PBT). **Bray GP:** 1 reported Dec 6 (BGU). **Reading:** first reported from Lower Earley with 12 Dec 9 (DJM), further records from this area to Whiteknights Pk involved 50 Reed's Avenue Dec 19 (RWi) then 100+ there Dec 20 (AMH), 40 Whiteknights Dec 21 (MFe), 30 Dec 22 (RAGP) and 33 Hillside Rd Earley Dec 23 (TAG per FJC). In the Caversham area, 1 was noted at Emmer Green Dec 15 (HRN) then 29 in Chiltern Rd Dec 18 (RCW), 30 Northbrook Rd Dec 23 (HRN) and 12 Caversham Heights Dec 30 (MRWS). There were 38 at Calcot on Dec 17 (JAB) whilst at Tilehurst there were 6 Dec 18 (JA), 20 Dec 19 (KD) and 21 Dec 20 (RCr). Further reports came from Goldsmit Rd with 10 Dec 26 (PG) and 5+ at the Forbury Retail Pk Dec 29 (JBa) increasing to 25 Dec 31 (ABT). **Warfield:** 4 Dec 10 (MHu). **Freeman's Marsh:** 1 Dec 12 (DSe). **Braywick:** 1 Dec 13 (CDRH).

Theale: 20 Dec 13 (GJS). **Binfield:** 16 Dec 15 (MJB). **Newbury:** what may have been the same flock of 28 was seen at the Turnpike Dec 15 (RClA) and Queens Rd Dec 18 (SAG). **Slough Trading Estate:** 6 Dec 15 increasing to 60 Dec 17 (BJH). **Stockcross:** [report of 30 Dec 15 (BGU)] then 5 Dec 24 (MJT). **Wokingham:** 15–16 Dec 17 (EN; PBT). **Eton Wick:** 48 Dec 19 (KPD). **Dorney W:** [30 (probable Eton Wick birds) reported Dec 19 (BGU)] then 32 Dec 21–22 (CCH; BR), 14 Dec 24 (FTr) last 1 Dec 26 (BDC). **Winnersh:** the largest numbers were reported from here; 25 present Dec 19 (FJC; DMo) had increased to 45 Dec 23 (RAd), 80 Dec 24 (SDi), 120+ Dec 25 (RAd), 140 Dec 27 (MHT) and 150 Dec 28 (FJC) numbers remaining high into 2011. **Twyford:** 61 beside the A321 Dec 21 (ADB). **Hungerford:** small numbers were reported from several sites within the town beginning with 10–15 Dec 23 (TBu), 20 Dec 27 (GJS; LS) and 30 Dec 28 (JD). **Woodley:** 40–50 Dec 23 then 54 Dec 26 and 21 Dec 31 (FJC). **Cookham Rise:** 10 Dec 24 (DFr) and 15 Dec 30 (BDC). **Crowthorne Wood, Swinley Forest:** 40+ at roost Dec 24 (DJS). **Burnham:** 55 were in Westland's Avenue Berks on Dec 24 (RN). **Upper Basildon:** 8 Dec 25 (JMM). **Wraybury:** 12 flew SW Dec 25 (CDRH). **Spencers Wood:** 9 Dec 26 and 5 Dec 28 (NR). **Upper Bucklebury:** 2 Dec 26 (BLy). **Great Shefford:** 1 Dec 27 (PG). **Hurst:** 5 Dec 28 (ADB) and **Windsor Gt Pk:** 20 Dec 31 (SK). This is already the second largest influx to reach Berks, as to whether this invasion has the potential to exceed the record breaking winter of 2004/5 will depend on further records in Jan–Mar 2011.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

Rare vagrant primarily in winter

One found on the River Lambourn at Welford on Dec 23 (DJR *et al.*) was one of the highlights of the year and completed a W Berks “hat trick” (Glossy Ibis and Great White Egret) of superb finds in Dec 2010. Although elusive at times, the bird gave excellent views to many visiting observers and was seen on most days to the year end. This is the first Dipper to be seen by many observers in Berks and is only the second record for over 20 years, the last being 1 seen on the R Lambourn at Easton on Jan 30 2004.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant resident, local numbers may be affected by adverse winter weather

The recent cold winters seemed not to have affected this species abundance within the county. Although largely under recorded, counts exceeded 15 at 17 locations with highs being 33 singing Burghfield GPs Mar 27 and 61 singing there Apr 23 (RCr), 38 singing Swinley Pk Apr 8 (DJB), 46 (39 singing) Virginia Water Jun 4 (DJB) and 41 (38 singing) South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB). **Breeding:** this is one of the most ubiquitous species to be found in Berks and breeding was widely reported throughout the county with records coming from a wide variety of habitats.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Common though possibly declining resident (Amber Listed)

Notable records involved counts of 18 at Burghfield Feb 5 (PNe) and Chaddleworth Apr 20 (JL), and 2 pairs bred in RHar's Inkpen garden. Otherwise, most records involved small numbers of birds encountered on survey walks or garden sightings. Reports of breeding came from throughout the county from a variety of habitats, however the species does appear to have become less common in some wooded areas in the east i.e. Swinley Forest and Windsor Forest.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident

The ongoing BTO Bird Atlas has greatly increased the number of records submitted for this widespread and very popular species. Counts of over 25 birds involved 35 South End Feb 14 (PNe), 26 Parsonage Green Feb 17 (PNe), 32 California CP Mar 26 and 40 there Apr 23 (MHT), 52 singing Burghfield GPs Mar 27 and 34 singing Apr 23 (RCr) and 29 (24 singing) Virginia Water Jun 4 (DJB). Breeding was reported throughout the county from a multitude of sites.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Uncommon and local summer visitor, rarely encountered on passage (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 22 locations this year, evenly spread between M and W Berks and for the second consecutive year and the 3rd in the last 4 there were no records from E Berks. Apart from 2 locations all sites were within the Kennet Valley. **Spring:** 1singing at Burghfield GPs on Mar 28 (JA) and 29 (RCr) into Apr is the earliest ever for Berks. There were no further reports (except the Burghfield bird) until Apr 11 when 3 were singing at Burghfield GPs (JA), the main arrival soon following with birds present at most sites by early May. The Table shows the maximum number of birds at all spring sites, singing birds in brackets.

Site	No	Date	Observer/s	Site	No	Date	Observer/s
Bottom Lane Theale	(1)	Apr 22	KEM	K&A Hamstead Lock	(1)	May 31	IW
Brimpton	4(2)	Jun 6	RCr	Hosehill LNR Theale	6	May 1	JLe
Burghfield GPs	(11)	Apr 23	RCr	Midgham	(1)	May 6	RF
Pingewood GPs	1	Apr 26	KEM	Moatlands GP	(3)	Apr 21	RCr
Chamberhouse Marsh	(2)	May 15	DJB	Moor Copse Tidmarsh	1	Apr 18	DM
Crookham Common	(2)	May 18	CDRH	Swallowfield Church	(1)	Apr 27	RRI
Denford Mill	(1)	May 11	R D Wilson	Theale Main GP	(2)	Apr 18,25	KEM
Dinton Pastures CP	(4)	Apr 24,25	RJD; FJC	West Meadows	2	Apr 25	JLS
Greenham Common	(5)	Apr 25	IW	Wigmore Lane Theale	(1)	Jun 5	RCr
Hamstead Marshall	(1)	Apr 29	RHar	Woolhampton	(1)	Apr 12	WB

Although most sites reported birds on several dates, the records from Moor Copse and Swallowfield are away from usual summering localities and so may have been passing migrants. **Breeding:** evidence pointing to breeding came from 6 sites: at Theale Main GP, 2 juvs were located Jun 8 (KEM), 3 nests with young and a pair carrying food were located at Burghfield GPs on Jun 13 (JA), an adult was attending 2j at Wigmore Lane Jun 19 (RCr), an ad and juv at Greenham Com Jun 23 (GEW) was followed by single juvs ringed on Jun 27 and Aug 8 (IW; JL). Finally 1 juv was reported from Marsh Benham on Jul 2 (JLS). **Autumn:** apart from the 2 Jul/Aug records already mentioned, late records involved 1 Kintbury Jul 6 (GDS), 1 Moatlands GP Jul 13 (RCr) and 1 Greenham Com Aug 14 (NC)

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

A better than average year with records coming from 9 locations which included a strong spring passage and a breeding record. **First winter:** a male was present at Aldermaston AWE on Mar 23 (SRi). **Spring passage:** a migrant female at Wokingham STW Apr 1 (DJB) was followed by 1 f/imm at Greenham Com (PH) and a singing male at the same location Apr 11 (ABT). BMA's Crowthorne garden held a female on Apr 14 (BMA) and a female was on buildings at White Waltham Airfield Apr 20 (PBT). **Breeding:** a territorial male first located in Reading on Apr 18 (RRi) was heard singing throughout May and into Jun (ABT; RCr). Breeding was confirmed when 2 juvs were discovered on Jul 1 (ABT) and seen again Jul 5 (CDRH). **Autumn/Second winter:** at least 3 birds moved through the county in Nov: a male was observed at the John O'Gaunt School Hungerford Nov 1 (IDP) then a f/imm was present at QMR Nov 10 (RDR) and 11 (MMc) followed by a male there on Nov 13 (CDRH).

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Localised summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Spring: records came from 9 locations, the first being 1f at Greenham Com (IW; JL) and 1 Dorney W (WMO) on Apr 2. A male was located at Streatley Warren Apr 15 (DJS) then 1 Chaddleworth Apr 20 (JL), 1 singing Swinley Pk May 4 (DJB), 1f QMR (CDRH) and 1 singing Combe Wood (RHS *et al.*) on May 15 and 2 reported from Greenham Com May 20 (RM). **Summer:** records came from 2 locations: at Swinley Forest where birds had been present since Apr 9 (DJB), an incomplete survey located 19 territories (DJB; PJC) with breeding probable at 3 territories but not proven. In Windsor Forest 2 singing males were located Apr 24 and both were still present May 20 (DJB). One pair was then observed feeding 3+ juvs on Jun 18 (DJB), the first confirmed breeding in Windsor Forest since probably the 1970's. **Autumn:** was a busy time with records coming from 14 locations. Early records involved 1f Windmill Down, West Ilsley on Jun 26 (GDS) and a female in heavy moult present at Greenham Com from late June and ringed on Jul 18 (IW; JL) when it had a feathering over brood patch suggesting local breeding? It remained to the end of July (NDOC). There followed a male at Woolhampton GPs Jul 25 (NC) then in Aug 2 were at Wigmoreash Pond Inkpen Aug 7 and 1 there Aug 29 (SAG), 1 imm male Greenham Com Aug 12 (JL) and a male there Aug 29 (IW; JL), 1 was reported from Fawley Aug 20 (JD), 1m Sonning Meadows Aug 26 (ABT) and 2 1w's Wishmoor Bottom Aug 28 were probably locally bred (DJB), 1 was also ringed at Wraysbury GPs in Aug (RRG). Up to 15 birds were reported in Sep beginning with 1 Woolhampton GP Sep 1 (TBu), 1 Fawley (JD) and 2 1w's Cow Down (ABT) Sep 3, 3 Combe/Walbury Hills Sep 4 (JWB; TPo) and 2 there Sep 6 (TPo), 1 1w Sonning Sep 4 (ABT), 2 Cock Marsh Sep 6, 1 1w (WAS) and 1m (CDRH), 1f Lavell's Lake Sep 8 (FJC), 1m Brimpton GPs Sep 11 (RHS; GEW) and finally 1 Pingewood Sep 12 (JA; RPo)

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon and declining passage migrant which formally bred (Amber Listed)

Spring: birds were reported from 10 locations during this period with passage commencing with a male at Dorney W Apr 24 (CDRH) and 1 at Arborfield Apr 27 (PBu). These were followed by an early May influx with 1m Dorney W May 1 (KPD) and 4th (WAS), 1f Pingewood GPs May 1 (RJB; KEM) then 2m 1f there May 2 (RHS *et al.*), 1m remaining

on May 3 (KEM). A female was on Park Farm Down Lambourn May 2 (ABT) then 3 (2m 1f) at Englefield May 3 (PBT; RCW) with 1 there May 4 (PH), 1m Greenham Com May 4 (JHa), 1f there May 8 (JHa) and a pair May 9 (SDi) further east a male was at Jennett's Pk Bracknell May 6 (BDC). Another wave occurred from May 15 with single females at Greenham Com (RHS) and Colnbrook (CDRH) another female Great Meadow Pond on May 16 (DJB). **Autumn:** recorded from 22 locations during the period, the first being 1 near Hungerford Newtown Jul 25 (APa). The majority of records came in Aug/Sep; the weekly status is shown in the table:

	Jul 25-31	Aug 1-7	Aug 8-14	Aug 15-21	Aug 22-28	Aug 29 -Sep 4	Sep 5-11	Sep 12-18	Sep 19-25	Sep 26 -Oct 2	Oct 3-9
Sites	1	1	0	2	6	13	8	5	3	0	1
Max. no of birds	1	1	0	4	11	34	14	11	5	0	1

High counts involved 3 QMR Aug 24 (CDRH), 5 Sonning Aug 29 (ABT), 3 Dorney W Sep 12 (RN) and 4 Remenham Hill Sep 18 (ABT). The last record of the year was 1 at Brimpton on Oct 5 (GEW)

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

Locally common summer resident, uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Records were received from only 23 locations, 7 in W Berks, 7 in M Berks and 9 in E Berks. Compared to just a few years ago (recorded from 73 sites in 2008) this is a massive decline which is possibly due to the recent run of cold winters we have experienced. The table shows the monthly status bird totals do not include dependant young.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	3	1	8	6	3	3	5	4	4	11	3	2
Min. number of birds	4	2	11	50	46	46	50	23	16	24	4	2

First winter: wintering or passage birds were reported from 9 locations, a further 3 sites held birds nearly all year. Most records involved just 1-2 birds, higher counts being 4 returning birds to Greenham Com Mar 19 (JL). **Spring/Summer:** a presumed migrant male was noted at Silverstock Fm near Crowthorne on Apr 8 (RCMu) and the only record from the usually regular site of Wildmoor Heath was a male on Apr 24 (MSk) and at Decoy Heath a pair was noted in Apr and Jul (BSh). A regular pair at Eversley GPs was confirmed as breeding when 3 juvs were located on Jun 26 (IHB). At the main sites; 7 territories were located at Greenham Com (AEDH) with at least 5 pairs breeding (MO) and 15 pairs were found within the Swinley Forest SPA with 6 pairs known to have bred (DJB; PJC; PD; DJS). **Autumn/Second winter:** birds were reported from 17 locations. Before Oct most records came from the summering sites however local dispersal probably accounted for the 2 juvs reported from the Hungerford Newtown area Jul 25 (APa). A late second brood was noted at Wishmoor Bottom, Swinley Forest Aug 28 (DJB) and 10 were still on Greenham Com Sep 10 (JL). October was the main passage month with records coming from 11 sites. High counts involved 5 Walbury Hill and 3 nearby on Combe Hill Oct 4 (DJB), 3 Brimpton Oct 12 (GEW) and 3 Englefield Oct 17-20 (RCr). Birds became scarce during Nov/Dec, the only sightings coming from Lambourn, East Garston and Dorney W (single birds) and 2 at Eversley GPs in Nov.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant (Amber Listed)

Records came from 60 locations throughout the county; the monthly status is shown in the table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	9	25	17	0	2	22	23	12	0	0
Estimated no. of birds	0	0	34	117	55	0	2	42	99	30	0	0

Spring passage: was observed at 36 locations beginning with 1 by the Long Walk, Windsor Gt Pk Mar 17 (RMH). Numbers quickly increased, there were 8 on Greenham Com Mar 21 (JHa), 14 there Apr 1–3 (JHa; AA) and 8 Apr 22 (NC). Elsewhere 8 were on Pit Down Lambourn (ABT) and 7 Windmill Down West Ilsley (GDS) both on Apr 24 and at QMR numbers increased to a peak of 24 on Apr 25 (CDRH) and there were 10 on Remenham Hill Apr 27 (CDRH). High May totals were 10+ Greenham Com (IW; JL) and 5 QMR (CDRH) on May 3. There after numbers dwindled through to the months end, the last being 2f at Wellbottom Down May 31 (NC). **Autumn passage:** July records involved 1 Ascot Heath Jul 29 (RJD) and 1f/juv QMR Jul 31 (CDRH). Although widespread in Aug most counts involved only 1–4 birds, 5 at Sonning Aug 18 (ABT) being the exception. As passage peaked in Sep, larger counts occurred with 6 Dorney W Sep 1 (WAS), 8 at QMR on Sep 13 (CDRH), 9 QMR Sep 14 (MMc) and 11 on the Compton Downs Sep 19 (MFW). Passage continued into Oct with 11 sites holding 1–3 birds at any one time however 5 were at QMR on Oct 4 (CDRH). Five locations held birds into late Oct with the last being a female on Inkpen Hill on Oct 31 (SAG).

GREENLAND WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*

Scarce passage migrant, probably overlooked

Small numbers of birds resembling the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* are recorded passing through Berks during both migration periods most years. In 2010 birds were reported from 5 locations. **Spring:** began with a male at QMR Apr 24 (CDRH), on Apr 25 at QMR of 24 birds present (including a loose flock of 17) most were thought by the observer (CDRH) to probably be of this race but distinctions were obscured due to the wet weather at the time dampening plumage. A clear example of this race came in the form of a male with 2 female Wheatears at Colnbrook Apr 30–May 1 (CDRH). Further west, records involved a male at Englefield May 4 (RCr) and 2f Woolhampton GPs (KEM) on May 5. **Autumn:** appeared scarce during this period, the only record involved a f/imm at QMR on Oct 12–14 (CDRH).

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce passage migrant (Red Listed)

There were 9 records involving 16 birds in 2010 making it a better than average year. **Spring passage:** began with 2 (1m 1f) at Walbury Hill on Mar 27 (TPO) with another male there on Apr 6 (DJB) and a pair on the adjacent West Woodhay Down Apr 9 (CDRH) and 10 (ABT). One in rather abnormal plumage was located at Stockcross on Apr 24 (SAG). The last of the spring, and the only report away from W Berks was of a female at QMR Apr 28 (CDRH). **Autumn passage:** what was probably a family party of 6 (1m 1f 4 1w's) was located on Walbury Hill Oct 4 (DJB) and a 1w was found at Great Meadow Pond on Oct 17 (DJB).

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Although under recorded due to its abundance, there were still a substantial number of records submitted and counts of 20 or more came from 18 locations. The highest counts involved 37 Southend Feb 14 (PNe), 34 California CP May 21 (MHT) and 30 Bray GPs Jun 3 (PNe). A partial albino at Inkpen had dodged the cats and other predators to enter its fourth year of residency in the village (RHar).

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, has bred (Schedule One and Red Listed)

Fieldfares were common and widespread throughout the county in both winter periods. Although regularly overlooked, especially the smaller flocks, there were enough records to give some idea of the monthly status within the county and this is shown in the table below. However it is likely that the monthly totals are below the true numbers that occurred in Berks in 2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min. number of sites	67	42	35	11	0	0	0	0	0	30	38	54
Min. number of birds	3038	3346	2383	255	0	0	0	0	0	1628	2335	7934

First winter: flocks of 100 or more were reported from 30 locations, the highest counts were 300 Bury/Cow Down Jan 23 (JE) increasing to c500 Feb 14 (MJT), 250 Howe La Fm Littlefield Green Jan 27 (DJB), c300 Great Meadow Pond Feb 7–21 (DJB) and 250 Old Down Feb 22 (GDS). Counts in Mar peaked at 200 at both Bury Down (RCW) and Radley Fm (LS) on Mar 7. Numbers quickly diminished in April, 67 in Windsor Gt Pk Apr 12 (MMc) being the largest count and 18 Windmill Down West Ilsley Apr 24 (GDS) the last report. **Second winter:** passage began in early Oct with 2 over Emmer Green Oct 4 (DJW). As numbers increased, some large flocks were observed, the largest in Oct/Nov being 250 Canon Court Maidenhead Oct 20 (BDC), 200 Burnthouse La Oct 24 (ABT), 200 Boxford Nov 13 (RCl), 200 Woolhampton Nov 15 (KEM), 260 Farnborough Down Nov 21 (GDS) and 300 Lower Green Nov 22 (RHar). A major influx occurred over the NW of the county in mid Dec; on Dec 10 at least 1500 were present in the Aldworth/Compton Downs area (RRi) and further west an estimated 2000 were on Sheepdrove (CDRH). On Dec 11 large counts were reported from 7 locations with highs of c500 at Bury Down (RCMu), Compton Downs (GDS), Eastbury (ABT), Upper Lambourn (ABT) and 450 East Ilsley (GDS). However after these dates it appears that the majority of birds had quickly moved on! Later high counts involved 300 Cold Harbour Dec 26 (PNe) and 350 at Stanmore Dec 29 (IW).

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Common resident and winter visitor (Red Listed)

The State of the UK's Birds 2010 shows that this species may be showing signs of recovery from the drastic decline it suffered during the last 30 years of the twentieth century. The BBS trend from 1995 to 2008 has shown an increase of 27% and this has been reflected in the number of Berkshire records submitted in 2010. This year birds were reported from 226 sites throughout the county and breeding was confirmed at 71 of these. High counts involved 11 on the Ridgeway at Compton Jan 2 (DJB), 13 Southend Feb 14 (PNe), 11 singing Burghfield GPs Mar 27 (RCr), 10 singing Upper Basildon Mar 29 (WB), 16 territories

Swinley Pk Apr –Jun (DJB), 14 (9 singing) Wraysbury GPs Apr 4 (RJD), 11 Sole Com Apr 21 (JL), 12+ South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB) and 12 Remenham Jul 13 (PNe). There were numerous breeding records.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, very rare in summer (Schedule One and Red Listed)

Although widespread throughout both winter periods, numbers were somewhat lower than that of the Fieldfare with flocks of 100 or more being reported from only 26 locations. Although reported from 189 locations throughout the county, the species is still under recorded as many small groups go un-reported, therefore the table below can only be looked upon as an estimate of its monthly status

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min. number of sites	68	43	39	4	0	0	0	0	2	28	43	64
Min. number of birds	1809	1487	955	8	0	0	0	0	5	909	1369	2740

First winter: high counts involved 350+ Great Meadow Pond Jan 24 (DJB), 200 Spencers Wood Jan 30 (NR), 200+ Loddon Drive Charvil Feb 22 (DJB), 150 Whiteknights Pk Feb 10 and 23 (AA) and 150 Crookham Com Mar 14 (GDS); there were a further 10 records of 100+ birds during the period. Most birds had departed by late March, the only April records being 1 Wooshill Wokingham Apr 2 (PBT), 1 Woolhampton GP Apr 3 (KEM), 3 (song heard) Southcote Apr 5 (JA) and 3 Windsor Gt Pk Apr 12 (MMc). **Second winter:** the first returning birds appeared in Sept with 4 flying SW over Great Meadow Pond Sep 26 (DJB) and 1 Crown Wood Bracknell Sep 28 (TS). As passage increased in Oct, the first sizeable counts were recorded with 150 over Thatcham Marsh (IW; JL) and 200+ over Dinton Pastures CP (FJC) on Oct 10, another 130 flew over Dinton Pastures on Oct 12 (FJC) and 160 were noted at Boxford Com on Oct 15 (JL). A high count of 500 came from Basildon on Nov 22 (RRi) and with increasing numbers in West Berks during Dec, over 500 were noted at Freman’s Marsh Dec 11 (DJB; DJR), 250+ Kintbury Dec 25 (IW), 173 Eastbury Dec 27 (MB) and 200+ were at Stanmore Dec 29 (IW). Further east in Mid and East Berks, no count had exceeded 100 birds since Nov 7 when 111 flew NW over QMR (CDRH) and 127 were in Great Meadow Pond (DJB).

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Common though declining resident (Amber Listed)

In what was the best year for records this century, birds were reported from 192 locations throughout the county, with breeding confirmed at 46 of these! The high totals are explained by the greater coverage given to our more common species when surveys such as the BTO Bird Atlas and BBS are ongoing. High counts involved 1 first winter count of 17 at Virginia Water Jan 21 (DJB) then a collection of post breeding records beginning with 14 Englefield Jul 25 (RCr), 20 QMR Jul 27 (CDRH), 33 Seven Barrows Aug 1 (SAG) and 31 Wigmores Pond Aug 15 (SAG). The high number of records submitted to this report may suggest that the Mistle Thrush population is now stable or even increasing! However the latest data from the State of the UK’s Birds still show signs of decline (BBS trend 1995–2008, down 13%) and the totals given here may indicate just how under-recorded this species has been in recent years.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Locally common resident (Schedule One)

Records were received from 34 locations, 22 in W Berks, 7 in M Berks and 5 in E Berks; the table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	1	3	7	14	13	11	6	4	5	5	3	0
Min. number of birds	1	5	13	23	32	18	13	12	12	13	4	0
M Berks sites	0	2	2	4	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	0
Min. number of birds	0	2	2	5	3	5	0	1	2	2	3	0
E Berks sites	1	2	2	4	5	4	2	2	2	3	2	2
Min. number of birds	4	4	6	10	10	8	9	7	4	10	6	5

The main stronghold continues to be the Kennet Valley and its tributaries where an estimated 50 singing males were on territory during the breeding season. The highest count in this area involved 11 singing in Thatcham Marsh on May 7 (DJB) but no other count exceeded 3 singing males, although numbers appeared to diminish as the year went on, the likely cause would be lack of song and observer coverage, not a lack of birds. Away from the Kennet, birds were found at 7 locations: Dinton Pastures CP and Sandford Fm on the R Loddon where single singing birds were found in the autumn and 5 sites in E Berks. Four of the E Berks sites hosted single singing birds during the breeding season. At the fifth site, Great Meadow Pond, up to 4 singing males were present throughout the year (DJB) and later 6 were found singing at Dorney W on Oct 29 (WAS) then up to 3 were reported on many dates. **Breeding:** evidence of breeding came from 4 locations. In the Kennet valley, 1 was observed carrying food at Moatlands GPs on Jun 25 (RCr), 4 juvs were caught and ringed at Thatcham Marsh in July (IW; JL) and an imm was located at Woolhampton GPs on Aug 6 (KEM). At Great Meadow Pond, an adult feeding 2+ juvs on Jul 25 (DJB) is the first confirmed breeding record for E Berks, another 3 juvs were later ringed at a different part of this site (RRG), thus confirming breeding by at least 2 pairs there.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant which has declined in recent years (Red Listed)

Records were received from 17 locations, 9 in W Berks and 4 in both M and E Berks and involved a minimum of 19 birds. One reported reeling (r) at Wraysbury GPs on Apr 4 (RJD) would be the earliest record since at least 1974. There were no further records until Apr 17 when 1r at Shefford Woodlands (LS). A widespread arrival into southern England on Apr 18 produced 2 E Berks records, 1 seen well at Horton GPs (CDRH) and 1r at Wraysbury GPs (RD). Further April records followed with 2r Wraysbury GPs Apr 21 (RJD) then 1r there to Apr 26 (BAJC; SK), 1r Kintbury Apr 22 (JLS) to Apr 24 (JLS; RHar), 1r Woolhampton GP Apr 22 (KEM), 1r Eversley GPs Apr 23 (NS per MGLR), 1r Dinton Pastures CP Apr 23 (FJC) to May 1 (KEM), 1r Farley Hill (RCMu) and Kintbury CBs (RGS) on Apr 24, 1r Dorney W Apr 24 (RM) to Apr 28 (DH), 1r Benham Bridge (JHa) and Hosehill Lake LNR (NR) Apr 25, 1r Hungerford Marsh Apr 25 (ABT) to May 1 (JBut) and finally 1r near Hamstead Marshall Apr 29 (RHar). The only later dates involved 1r Thatcham Marsh May 7 (DJB), 1r Padworth Com Jun 13 (KEM), 1 ringed at Wraysbury GPs in July (RRG) and 2r at Freeman's Marsh Jul 8 (GDS); it appears that no birds remained on site for any longer than 9 days. Data from the BBS 2010 report shows a small national increase but historically

this species numbers fluctuate from year to year, when trends are focused on just England, it shows a continuing decline. Although not definitely lost as a Berkshire breeding species it seems that fewer birds are now establishing long term territories and unfortunately it appears that at some sites, birds are being disturbed by the activities of birdwatchers trying to see a reeling bird!

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

Records came from 45 locations throughout the county. **Spring:** the first returning birds arrived in early April with singing birds at Hosehill Lake LNR Apr 3 (MFW) and Thatcham Marsh Apr 5 (IW). Numbers increased through Apr and by the months end singing birds could be found at 31 locations with high counts of 11 singing Burghfield GPs Apr 23 (RCr), 14 singing Dorney W Apr 23 (BDC), 15 Hungerford Marsh Apr 24–25 (JBut), 11 West Meadows Apr 25 (JLS) and 14 Lavell’s Lake Apr 27 (TOA). In May there were 16 Thatcham Marsh May 1 (IW; JL), 21 Hungerford Marsh May 1 (JBut), 10 singing Woolhampton GPs May 7 (JPM) and 14 (12 singing) Dorney W May 18 (BDC) and a further 1–10 birds were noted at 18 sites. Of interest was a record of 1 singing from a rape field near Stanmore on Jun 7 (IW). **Breeding:** although thought to have occurred widely, was only confirmed at 5 localities: Thatcham Marsh (IW; JL), Woolhampton GPs (PD), Great Meadow Pond (RRG), Dorney W (BDC; RM) and the Maidenhead Ditch (WAS). **Autumn:** passage was unspectacular (under recorded?), an early migrant was located in a bean field at Woodlands Pk on Jul 28 (DJB), and the highest count was only 9 at Thatcham Marsh Aug 14 (IW; JL). Late birds were noted at Horton GPs, 1 Sep 18–25 (CDRH), 2 Burnthouse La GP 2 Oct (ABT), 1 Dorney W Oct 3 (WAS) and finally 2 Thatcham Marsh Oct 10 (IW; JL).

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant

Records were received from 40 locations this year, the table shows the number of occupied sites per month based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Occupied sites	0	0	0	18	26	18	14	5	8	4	0	0

Spring: began with 1 singing at Burghfield Mill GP on Apr 15 (RCr). Birds quickly re-occupied their usual reed bed sites and although most locations recorded 1–6 birds there were higher counts at Dorney W with 13 singing Apr 23 (BDC) and 16 singing at Great Meadow Pond Apr 25 (DJB). By May numbers had peaked and birds could be found where ever there was good reed bed habitat. High counts at this time involved 65 (47 singing) Dorney W May 18 and 70 including young there on Jun 4 (BDC), 26 Thatcham Marsh May 22 (IW; JL), 15 Woolhampton GPs May 22 (GEW), 8 singing along the R Thames at Sonning Jun 6 (ABT) and 25+ pairs and some young Great Meadow Pond Jun 6 (DJB). Elsewhere 1 was singing from scrub on Greenham Com May 18 (RCr). **Breeding:** apart from the 2 sites already mentioned, breeding was proved along the Maidenhead Ditch (WAS), Quelm Pk Bracknell (BDC) and Thatcham Marsh where the first juvs were noted on Jun 20 and of 41 caught on Jul 27, 27 were recently fledged (IW; JL). **Autumn:** passage first became evident in late July when 1 was seen on West Woodhay Down (IW) and 10 were at Boxford (RClA) both Jul 30. Some major sites quickly became deserted i.e. the highest Dorney W count in Aug was only 4 where others tended to hold birds longer i.e. 17 Great

Meadow Pond in Aug. It was at the latter site that ringing operations by the RRG throughout the summer caught no less than 206 birds, 145 being juvs. By September numbers were very low everywhere and counts of 6 Arthur Jacob NR Sep 7 (CDRH) and 13 Thatcham Marsh (IW; JL) and 6 Burghfield GPs (JA; RPo) both on Sep 12 were exceptional. Four locations recorded birds in October: Pingewood GPs Oct 2 (ABT), Aldermaston GP Oct 4 (JPM), Lower Fm GP Oct 9 (IW; JL) and Thatcham Marsh Oct 10 (IW; JL).

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, uncommon (but increasing?) in winter

Blackcaps continue to be under recorded during the summer months; however this may not be the case in winter as birds are reported from an increasing number of locations annually throughout the county. The table below shows the winter status throughout the county in 2010.

	Jan	Feb	Mar*	Nov	Dec
Number of West Berks sites	6	4	0	2	2
Males	3	2	0	0	1
Females	2	1	0	2	1
Not sexed	2	1	0	0	0
Number of Mid Berks sites	29	23	14	5	10
Males	30	19	16	4	6
Females	13	11	7	2	8
Not sexed	6	4	0	0	0
Number of East Berks sites	25	8	4	2	9
Males	20	6	3	1	4
Females	11	6	1	1	8
Not sexed	2	0	0	0	0
Overall monthly total	89	50	27	10	28

*Only probable wintering birds included

As the table shows, numbers were probably at an all-time high during the first winter period and it is very likely that wintering numbers are substantially larger than one would think! Although very few sites recorded more than 2 birds at any one time, ringing operations in TGB's Caversham garden showed that no less than 14 Blackcaps were caught and ringed there during the 2009–2010 winter, yet his highest day count from Jan–Mar was only 2! Elsewhere the highest first winter site totals were 4 at both Twyford throughout Jan–Mar (SPA) and Redlands Rd Reading in Jan (PG). In the cold second winter, numbers were much reduced, the highest site total being only 3 at TGB's Caversham garden during Dec. **Apr/Oct:** common and widespread during this period with many counts of up to 15 birds. Higher counts and survey totals involved 47 (44 singing) Burghfield GPs Apr 4 then 52 singing there on Apr 23 (RCr), 28 (25 singing) Wraysbury GPs Apr 24 (RJD), 16 Jealott's Hill May 15 (RCMu), 31 (24 singing) South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB) and 17 Hurley Lock Jun 22 (PNe). Survey's found 17 territories in Swinley Forest, 33 territories Swinley Pk, 59 territories Windsor Forest and in a partial survey of Windsor Gt Pk, 46 territories were found (all DJB). A total of 637 were ringed at Wraysbury GPs from Apr to Sep with the majority in the autumn; of 375 ringed in Sep, 155 were on Sep 4 (RRG). Records show that breeding was successful throughout the county in habitats as diverse as downland hedgerows in the west to rhododendron thickets in SE Berks.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

Spring/Summer: the first report involved a singing male at Bray GPs on Apr 10 (KPD). By June birds (many singing) had been recorded from 76 locations with most reporting 1–4 birds. Larger counts were 5 singing Burghfield GPs Apr 23 (RCr) and May 18 (JA), 10 Lavell's Lake Apr 27 (TOA), 10 Wraysbury GPs May 1 (DGC), 6 singing Thatcham Marsh May 7 (DJB), 7 singing Loddon Reserve, Twyford GPs May 14 (DJB), 5 singing Bray GPs May 14 (DJB). 8 territories in Windsor Forest in May (DJB), 8+ singing Woolhampton GPs Jun 6 (IW) and 7 singing Snelsmore Com Jun 15 (IW; JL). **Breeding:** was confirmed at Theale Main GP (RCr), Catmore (GDS) and Lea Fm Dinton Pastures CP (FJC). There were further reports from the BTO Bird Atlas, however details were rather vague! **Autumn:** from July birds became increasingly difficult to locate with birds being located at only 13 sites. The highest count was an astonishing 98 (96 ringed) at Wraysbury GPs on Jul 31 (RRG) which is probably the highest ever day count for this species in Berks. Away from Wraysbury the highest count was only 8+ at Greenham Com on Aug 8 (IW; JL). The last records of the year were in Sep with singles at Colnbrook Sep 3 (PMC), Cock Marsh Sep 6 (WAS), Woolhampton GPs Sep 7 (TBu), Lavell's Lake Sep 10 (PBT) and 3 ringed at Wraysbury GPs Sep 11 (RRG)

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Thinly but widely distributed summer visitor and passage migrant

Records were received from 73 locations throughout the county; the table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	0	28	35	15	11	15	11	1	0	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	0	31	40	28	19	41	27	2	0	0

Spring: the first arrivals occurred on Apr 18 with singles noted at Brimpton (GEW), Lower Fm GP (NC) and Moor Copse (DM). By the end of April birds (mostly singing males) appeared to be widespread though extremely thin on the ground, in fact only 2 locations had reported more than 1 bird: Wokingham STW with 2 singing (DJB) and Dinton Pastures CP with 3 singing (FJC). Numbers remained low in May with most records being of 1, occasionally 2 singing males. **Breeding:** records came from 7 locations involving 1 carrying food Horton GPs May 25 (CDRH), family of 4 Greenham Com Jun 10 (JL), 2 families totalling 8 birds North Street, Theale Jun 19 (RCr), family of 3 Beedon Jun 29 (HMG), a pair reared 2y Great Meadow Pond Jul-Aug (DJB), 1 feeding young Allanbay Pk Jul 7 (PNe) and a family of 3 Nuptown Jul 30 (PBT). **Autumn:** the main passage occurred during Aug when highs of 3 were noted at Burghfield GPs Aug 8 (JA) and Cock Marsh Aug 25 (WAS). The only count to exceed 3 was 4 along the Ridgeway on the Compton Downs Aug 13 (DJB). September records were mainly in the first half of the month involving single birds except for 2 at Woolhampton GPs Sep 3 (KEM), 8 ringed at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 4 (RRG) and a late record of 1 caught and ringed at Lavell's Lake on Sep 30 (TOA; FJC). Finally an exceptional record of 2 at Pingewood GPs on Oct 2 (ABT) is the latest record since 1 at Brimpton on the same date in 1976 and is the first Oct record since 1989.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant (Amber Listed)

This is one of our most common and widespread of our summer visitors; a lover of low scrub and rough grassy habitats it is common in hedgerows, heathland and wasteland and is usually the commonest warbler in these specific habitats. Records came from 184 locations in 2010, the first being 1 singing at Greenham Com on Apr 9 (NC). High counts involved 11 singing Eversley GPs May 6 (PBT), 12 (10 singing) Wishmoor Bottom May 10 (DJB), 19 Stanford Dingley May 13 (BAJC), 21 singing Jealott's Hill May 15 (RCMu), 23 on the Ridgeway, Compton Downs May 28 (DJB), 12 Dorney W Jun 4 (BDC), 18 Englefield Aug 1 (RCr) and 18 Compton Downs Aug 13 (DJB). At Wraysbury GPs, 305 birds were ringed from Apr-Sep (RRG). This year a high number of breeding records were received and was confirmed at 54 locations. Return passage was at its peak in Aug, birds soon became scarce in Sep, the last being 1 Burghfield GPs Sep 12 (JA; RPo).

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Localised resident in small numbers, rare away from breeding habitat (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

The cold winters of 2009 have had a devastating effect on the counties Dartford Warbler population! From as many as 37 territories during summer 2008, totals covering the same period in 2010 produced less than 10 birds. **First winter:** The Colnbrook male present since Dec 2009 was seen again on Jan 2 and Feb 19 (CDRH). At Greenham Com 2 were located on Jan 17 (NC; MJD) and 4 were singing on Feb 20 (EN). **Spring:** the first East Berks Heathlands record involved a single singing male in Wishmoor Bottom Mar 12 to at least Aug 28 (DJB), 2 were reported there on Apr 15 (DSe) but not subsequently. Five were on Greenham Com on Mar 19 (JL) and 6+ were noted there on Apr 2 (IW; JL). Although the highest Greenham count in May was only 3, a female was observed carrying food May 11 (DJB) and breeding was confirmed when a family party of 6+ was seen on Jun 27 (IW; JL). **Autumn/Second winter:** Greenham Com continued to be the species stronghold with 5 Jul 17 (IW; JL), 7+ Sep 21 (PH) and 5+ Oct 30 (IW; JL). One was heard on Wildmoor Heath on Aug 26 (DLo) and this or another was seen there on Nov 2 (DJS). The last sighting of the year was 2 back at Greenham Com on Nov 25 (JL), just before the onset of more severe winter weather in Dec which could further damage the counties now fragile population.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Formerly an uncommon summer visitor, now an increasingly rare passage migrant (Red Listed)

There were 2 records this year; **Spring:** 2 migrant singing males were then located in early May: 1 singing by High Wood Woodley on May 1 (MO) then another singing in roadside oaks in Wellington Rd Sandhurst on May 2 (RJG).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor and scarce but increasing winter visitor

First winter (Jan/Feb): records were received from 9 locations, 2 in M Berks and 7 in E Berks. Six sites only recorded sightings of single birds, these being Colnbrook Jan 2 (CDRH), Horton GPs Jan 3 (CDRH), Wraysbury GPs Jan 4 (CDRH) Jan 31 (DGC), Braywick Jan 14 (BDC), Twyford GPs Jan 25 (RHS) and Moatlands GP Feb 21 (JA). The other 3 sites regularly reported birds throughout the period, max counts: Wokingham STW, 4 Jan 4-14

when the severe weather forced birds to feed on filter beds in the company of Wagtails and Meadow Pipits. Birds returned to the hedgerows after the thaw and up to 3 were present all Feb (DJB). At Sandhurst STW numbers peaked at 4 on Jan 24 (DJS) and 5 on Feb 2 (MGM), along the Roundmoor Ditch, Eton Wick/Dorney W, 1–3 birds were regular, numbers peaked at 4 Jan 30 (KPD) and Feb 2 (WAS). **Spring:** birds were still present at 3 wintering sites in early Mar, the last probable wintering birds being 2 at Wokingham STW Mar 11 (DJB). Spring passage commenced from Mar 14 with singles at Kintbury Cressbeds (the first W Berks record of the year) (RGS) and Wraysbury GPs (DGC). The main arrival began on Mar 18 and by the month's end birds had been reported from 68 sites, April and May were also busy months and the highest counts involved 28 singing Burghfield GPs Mar 27 (RCr), 18 Boxford Mar 27 (RCla), 13 singing Eversley GPs Apr 1 (RJD), 16 Moor Copse Apr 9 (MHT), 13 singing Swinley Forest Apr 9 (DJB), 13 (9 singing) South Ascot Apr 17 (DJB), 14 California CP Apr 23 and 16 there May 21 (MHT) and 12 singing Thatcham Marsh May 7 (IW; JL). Survey results showed 46 territories in Windsor Forest and 19 in Swinley Pk (DJB). **Breeding:** records were few, only being reported from 8 locations. This low figure is certainly due to under recording by observers, however birds were still recorded from 39 sites in June including 20 (16 singing and 2prs feeding young) at South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB) and 14 California CP Jun 25 (MHT). **Autumn:** the highest count involved 105 caught, 88 ringed at Wraysbury GPs on Sep 11 (RRG). Other counts included 10 Lower Denford Aug 4 (RHar), 15 White Waltham STW Aug 11 (DJB), 17 Great Meadow Pond Sep 5 (DJB), 17+ Thatcham Marsh Sep 5 and 9 (IW; JL), 20 + Dorney W Sep 15 (WAS) and 11 Dinton Pastures CP Sep 16 (GWi). Oct passage was most evident early in the month! On Oct 2 10–12 birds were reported from Burnthouse La GP (ABT), Reading STW (PG), Cow Down (ABT) and Lavell's Lake (TOA). Another 10+ were at Boxford Com Oct 8 (IW; JL) and at Thatcham Marsh Oct 10 (IW; JL). **Second winter:** birds were much more widely distributed throughout the county during Nov/Dec with 18 locations holding birds, 5 in both W and M Berks and 8 in E Berks. All but 4 locations reported single birds, the exceptions being 3 including 1 of the race abietinus at Wraysbury GPs Nov 21 (CDRH) the abietinus being seen again on Dec 11 (CDRH), 6 on the Roundmoor Ditch Dorney W/Eton Wick on Nov 22 (KPD) then 7 there Dec 5 (BJH), 4 Old Windsor Dec 23 (RMH) and 8 Ham Island Dec 24 (RMH). Additionally 1 was back on the Wokingham STW filter beds on Dec 9 (DJB).

SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Véry scarce winter visitor

[The only record this year involved a *tristis* type at Heron Lakes Wraysbury GPs on Nov 28 (CDRH). Although it showed well the bird did not utter its diagnostic call.]

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common and widespread passage migrant and common though declining summer visitor (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 108 locations throughout the county; the monthly status based on submitted records is shown on the table

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	13	68	32	29	9	29	11	1	0	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	29	232	99	87	23	80	26	1	0	0

The early spring and autumn totals are probably fairly accurate however the summer totals may be an under estimate as some observers do not report all their sightings during this period.

Spring (Mar/Apr): the first was a singing bird in a Hungerford garden on Mar 19 (RGS) then further singing birds at Burnthouse La GP (KEM) and 3 at Burghfield GPs (RCr) on Mar 24. The main arrival began in late Mar and continued into Apr, high counts at this time being 8 singing Burghfield GPs Mar 27 (RCr), 6 Woolhampton GPs Mar 28 (NR), 24 singing Burghfield GPs Apr 4 (RCr), 8 singing Thatcham Marsh and 15 singing Woolhampton GPs both Apr 5 (IW), 8 singing Compton Downs Apr 10 (DJB), 8+ singing Snelmore Com (IW) and 10 singing Lower Denford (RHar) on Apr 20 and 18 singing Wraybury GPs Apr 21 (RJD). **May/June:** although reported from 41 locations during the 2 months, it is clear by comparing May totals (where available) to April totals at some of the main sites that the majority of April birds had moved on i.e. the max of 18 at Wraybury GPs in April had declined to 4 in May! Although singing males/pairs were reported from a variety of sites/habitats it appears that heathland and to a lesser extent upland areas (the Downs) held the highest densities, for example 14 were singing on Snelmore Com May 19 (IW), 6 singing Compton Downs at Roden Down May 28 (DJB) and a partial survey of Swinley Forest in the Wishmoor area produced 26 territories (DJB). **Breeding:** was under-recorded and the presence of migrating juv/lw birds from July onward does cloud the issue. However there were 7 confirmed records in the May/June period. **Autumn:** passage birds were first noted in July but peaked in Aug/Sep with 10 at Burghfield GPs on Aug 22 (JA), 12 ringed Wraybury GPs Sep 4 (RRG) and 10+ at the Arthur Jacob LNR Horton Sep 7 (CDRH). One with characters of the northern race *P. t. acredula* was ringed at Padworth Com on Aug 22 (TGB). Late birds included 1 Colnbrook Sep 25 (CDRH) and 1 at Woolhampton GPs Oct 8 (KEM) which is the latest departure date since 1995 (Nov 4 at Beedon).

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common, locally abundant resident and winter visitor

Although still common and widespread, numbers in some areas appear to have been affected by the recent cold winters. The only count of note in the first winter was 15 at Cranbourne Chase Windsor Forest Feb 27 (DJB). **Spring/Summer:** survey work and day counts in E Berks by DJB showed that fair numbers were still present at many sites i.e. 41 territories were mapped in Swinley Pk whilst high day counts in Windsor Forest included 3 pairs and 18 singing Cranbourne Chase May 13, 21 singing South Forest May 20 and 11 singing High Standinghill Woods May 24. Eighteen were located by Virginia Water Jun 4 and 26 (inc 2prs and 18 singing) in South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB). Breeding was widespread in SE Berks, elsewhere reports of breeding came from Farnborough (GDS), Gorrick Wood (RCMu), Inkpen (RHar) and West Ilsley (GDS).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

A scarce visitor to Berkshire in all seasons, also a locally common summer visitor to suitable woodlands throughout the county (Schedule One and Amber Listed)

First winter: there were 2 records, both in late Feb. One visited a Dedworth garden on Feb 20 (DAC) and another was located at Shepherds Meadows Sandhurst Feb 23 (DJS). **Spring/Summer:** the growing British population and the increased awareness of observers to the song of this species have shown that Firecrests are now much more widespread than just a few years ago! East Berks is still the species' stronghold and DJB's annual survey of the Crown Estate located 72 territories from 6 woodland areas and breeding was confirmed at 2 sites (juvs seen at both) (DJB). Elsewhere in E Berks, 2 (a pair?) were seen at Ashley Hill Apr 11 (ABT), 3 were singing near Finchampstead May 1, 2 singing Jun 13 (RCMu), 1 sang in Silwood Pk Apr 19 and May 15, a pair reported breeding there in Jun/Jul (RJD) and 2

were found at Beenhams Heath Jul 9 (PNe), In M Berks 2 were noted on a BTO tetrad visit near Farley Hill on Apr 3 (RRi) and a pair was located at Roundoak Piece, Padworth Apr 5 (GEW) with another singing nearby on Apr 9 (DJB; FJC). Birds were reported from 2 areas in W Berks. Due to occasional records coming from the Hermitage area i.e. 1 Mar 10 (JBU) a thorough search of suitable habitat in Apr/May located 8 territories (DJB; MFW). Further records of single birds Apr 11 and May 21 (ABT) and Apr 20 (BDC) may refer to some of these birds. In the Frilsham area, 2 singing males were located on May 4 (RCr). The total of 88–90 singing males/pairs found throughout the county in 2010 is clearly a county record and hopefully more sites will be located in the coming years thus increasing the known county population even further. **Autumn/Second winter:** there were 4 records: 1 Bray GPs Nov 14 (BDC), 2 Lavell's Lake Nov 16 (TOA) then 1 to Nov 22 (LRB), 2 East Bracknell Nov 21 (TS) and 1 in a Thatcham garden Dec 25 (MJD). Ringing records from the RRG show that 4 were ringed at Silwood and 2 at Wellington Col during the winter months.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Widespread but thinly distributed summer visitor and passage migrant which has declined in recent years (Red Listed)

Records were received from 57 locations, 34 in W Berks, 12 M Berks and 11 E Berks. The table shows the monthly status

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	0	0	0	0	19	25	13	19	8	1	0	0
Min. number of birds	0	0	0	0	29	44	21	46	11	1	0	0

Spring: the first records of the year involved singing males Lower Star Post, Swinley Forest May 10 and Marsh Benham May 11 (DJB). Most records involved 1–2 birds in May, however 3 were singing near to Dukes Lane Windsor Gt Pk May 20–30 (DJB). In June 10 sites held at least single pairs, high counts were 3 singing Virginia Water Jun 4 (DJB), 6 (4 singing and 1pr) Swinley Forest Jun 12 (DJB) and 3 Streatley Warren Jun 12 and 30 (SPA).

Breeding: was probable or confirmed at Shaw where birds were collecting nest material May 21 (IW), Winterbourne Holt, a pair breeding Jun 2 (JL), Hell Corner Fm Inkpen, pair nested in a creeper young fledged in early July (LS), Brimpton, a pair in June then ads attending young early July (GEW), Streatley Warren pair bred (SPA), West Ilsley 1pr 2juvs Jul 10 (ABT), Aston a pair with recently fledged young Jul 13 (PNe) and 1 ad attending 2 juvs Beedon Hill Aug 2 (ICB). Family parties noted at Larden Chase Streatley Aug 21 (MJM), Lower Fm GP Aug 21 (IW; JL) and Bagnor Cressbeds Aug 22 (IW; JL) may have been birds on passage. **Autumn:** apart from the records already mentioned most records involved 1–2 birds, higher counts were made in Windsor Gt Pk where 3 were noted on Aug 18 (RMH) and Aug 30 (KPD), 3 were also seen at Lavell's Lake Aug 31 (DBo) and in Sep, 3 were located at Brimpton GPs Sep 11 (GEW; RHS). The last birds of the year were singles at Lavell's Lake Sep 20 (FJC) and an imm at Woolhampton GPs on Oct 5 (KEM) which is the latest date since 1979 when 1 was in Bracknell on Oct 13.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce and declining passage migrant and very rare summer visitor (Amber Listed)

Another poor year for this species, the only record being a male at Padworth Com on Apr 25 (MFW *et al.*). The table shows the yearly totals for the last 10 years.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Spring records	1m	1m	0	2m	1f	2m,1f	0	1m,1f	0	1m
Autumn records	0	0	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total number of birds	1	1	1	8	2	4	0	2	0	1

The total for the 10 years amounts to just 20 birds (40% in 2004 alone) and compares poorly with the previous 10 year (1991–2000) total of 31 birds. The national decline of this species is clearly influencing the number of passage birds now moving through Berks, the once regular site of Whiteknights Pk has only had 1 record during this period compared to 10 from 1991–2000.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

Very scarce winter visitor and very rare summer visitor that has bred (Amber Listed)

An elusive party of 3 (1m 2f) took up winter residence in the reedbeds of Dorney W. First located on Dec 4 (RN *et al.*), the birds remained into 2011 however they were rarely easy to see!

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common and widespread resident

A common birds throughout the county, flocks numbering 20–30 birds were reported from 30 locations, higher counts involved 35 Wraybury GPs Jan 15 (DGC) and 57 Feb 20 (RJD), 37 Virginia Water Feb 12 (DJB), 42 Great Meadow Pond May 23 (DJB) and 32 South Forest Windsor Jun 18 (DJB). Breeding records were numerous, early nest building was observed at Burghfield GPs Jan 25 (RCMu).

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident

High counts involved 83 ringed Snelsmore Com Jan 3 and 38 ringed Jan 17 (IW; JL), 44 Burghfield Com Feb 10 (PNe), 47 Parsonage Green Aldworth Feb 17 (PNe), 47 California CP Mar 26 and 58 there Apr 23 (MHT), 87 Legoland Windsor Apr 1 (KPD), 60+ (mostly juvs) Virginia Water Jun 4 (DJB), 200+ (many juvs) South Forest Windsor Jun 18 (DJB), c60 Padworth Jul 23 (GJSu) and c50 Lower Green Aug 5 (RHar). At Silwood Pk the ongoing ringing programme of Blue Tits revealed that 241 broods were started, 899 pulli and 460 fledged birds were ringed (RRG).

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Abundant resident

Records of interest include 49 ringed at Snelsmore Com Jan 3 (IW; JL), 50 California CP Mar 26 (MHT), 40+ (6 family parties) South Forest Windsor Jun 18 (DJB) and 40 Lower Green Inkpen Aug 5 (RHar). At Eversley GPs there were 28 nesting attempts in nest boxes resulting in 120 fledged young (MGLR). At Silwood Pk 262 fledged birds and 101 pulli were ringed (RRG)

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Common and locally abundant resident

Appears not to have suffered during the recent cold winters. High counts were 49 ringed Snelsmore Com in Jan (IW; JL), 25 Cranbourne Chase Feb 27, 36 (including 3prs nesting and 22 singing) Swinley Pk Apr 8, 28 (10 singing and 3 families) Virginia Water Jun 4, 43+ Inc juvs South Ascot Jun 5, 75+ (10 family parties) South Forest Jun 18 and 60+ Cranbourne Chase Jul 30 (all DJB). Garden sightings are infrequent and were reported from just 12 such sites.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus*

Uncommon and declining resident, now confined to W Berks (Red Listed)

All records came from W Berks where birds were reported from 10 locations. The main site continues to be Combe Wood where 1–3 birds were regularly reported from Jan to May, 4 on Apr 11 (MFW) being the highest count. The lack of observer coverage from Jun–Nov resulted in no records however 2 were located on Dec 10 (CDRH). Other records in the Combe area involved 2 Inkpen Hill Mar 27 (JLS), 3 Combe Hill including 1 carrying food Jun 2 and 1 there Jul 10 (ABT) and 1 Walbury Hill Oct 4 (DJB). Elsewhere in W Berks, 1 was singing at Welford MoD Feb 13 (RCl), 1 Boxford Com Feb 19 and May 7 (JL), 1 singing Fence Wood Apr 6 (DJB), 2 by the K&A Canal at Newbury May 10 (JBR), 1 singing east of Hungerford Jun 6 (JWar) and 3 at Frilsham Jun 26 (RCr)

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

A locally common resident in West Berks and an uncommon resident in Mid and East Berks where the national decline has been more pronounced (Red Listed)

Records were received from 86 locations, 63 in W Berks, 14 in M Berks and 9 in E Berks. Although this total appears encouraging compared to recent report totals, 57 sites only recorded birds on 1 occasion and a large proportion of records were in winter when the species is prone to wander. Data from the State of the UK's Birds 2010 still shows a downward trend in population levels nationally (BBS 1995–2008) and the county increase in records would be partly due to the ongoing BTO Bird Atlas. The table shows the monthly status of adults/independent juvs throughout the county based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
West Berks sites	14	8	9	13	7	9	7	7	8	7	12	13
West Berks birds	34	21	16	31	14	19	8	8	17	11	19	22
Mid Berks sites	3	4	6	4	1	1	0	0	3	1	4	2
Mid Berks birds	3	6	9	6	1	1	0	0	5	1	7	2
East Berks sites	2	2	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
East Berks birds	4	3	6	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Overall total of birds (minimum)	41	30	31	38	15	20	10	8	22	12	26	26

West Berks: the vast majority of records came from this region with most being of 1–3 birds. Higher counts involved 12 Combe Wood Jan 30 (DJB) then regular counts of 6 there in Feb, Mar and Apr (RBr; MFW); 5 Stanmore Feb 25 (IW), 4 (1pr mating) North Standen Apr 17 (JWar), 8 Sole Com Apr 21 (JL) and 4 Lower Green in Sep and Dec (RHAr).

Breeding: occurred at Baynes Reserve where a brood of 4/5 fledged young were encountered and a nest in a Door Mouse box held a brood of 7 May 26 (NC), 3 family parties were located in Combe Wood Jun 13 (RJB), a family party at Snelsmore Com Jun 15 (IW; JL), an adult was feeding young at Crockham Heath Jun 19 (RRi) and a family was at Woolley Down Jun 26 (GDS). A juv on Combe Hill Jul 10 (ABT) would be of local origin. **Mid Berks:** birds were thin on the ground, the only sites where birds were seen fairly regularly was Padworth Com, Moor Copse and the Theale GPs area. The highest count was only 3 birds at Padworth Com Mar 21 and Nov 21 (MFW). **East Berks:** it is hoped that birds were under-recorded here as nearly all sites only reported birds on 1–2 occasions and the highest counts involved only 2 birds. The main distribution continues to be in woodlands surrounding Maidenhead and south to Windsor Forest. There were no breeding records for either M or E Berks.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Common and widespread woodland resident

A good year for records with birds reported from all parts of the county where suitable habitat is present. The highest counts were 12 Combe Wood Jan 30 (DJB), 8 Basildon Pk Feb 25 (PNe), 17 High Standinghill Woods Mar 27 (DJB), 15 Swinley Pk Apr 8 (DJB), 15 South Forest Jun 18 (DJB), 10 Crazies Hill Jul 11 (PNe), 15 Cranbourne Chase Jul 30 (DJB), 8 Snow Hill area Windsor Gt Pk Sep 1 (RMH), 11 Virginia Water Sep 9 (RMH) and 9 Sulham Dec 11 (PNe). **Breeding:** was confirmed at an impressive 61 locations with most reports involving 1–2 breeding pairs. Higher population densities in the SE of the county produced higher breeding figures, of 50 birds seen on the Berks side of Virginia Water on Jun 4, 6 pairs with broods of 5,5,4,4,3 and 2y were located along with a further 15 solitary birds, some of which may have been juvs (DJB)!

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident

Although under recorded, records show that Treecreepers are widespread throughout the county. Away from SE Berks, the highest counts were 4 at Fence Wood Apr 20 (BDC), Welford MoD Jul 24 (RCla) and Lower Green Oct 21 (RHAr). In SE Berks high counts involved 18 High Standinghill Woods Mar 27, 12 Swinley Pk Apr 8, 19 Virginia Water (including 2 families) Jun 4, 13+ Swinley Forest Jun 12, 10 South Forest Jun 18 and 12 Cranbourne Chase Jul 30 (all DJB). Breeding was confirmed at 40 locations.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Rare passage migrant, formally bred (Schedule One and Red Listed)

A female was briefly at Cock Marsh on Sep 6 (WAS). This is the first record since the female at Greenham Com in Aug 2003 and only the 4th since 1990.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Scarce winter visitor

The only record involved 1 at Wishmoor Bottom from Oct 10 (CRe *et al.*) to Oct 18 (GR). The status of Great Grey Shrike since the winter of 2000/01 is shown in the table.

Winter	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
No. of birds	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0

With a total of only 6 birds, the table shows a substantial decline in numbers compared to totals from the winters of 1990/91 to 1999/2000 when 14 birds were reported.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Common resident

First winter: the only count of note was 8 in Silwood Pk Feb 12 (DJB). **Spring/Summer:** the largest counts were 9 at California CP Apr 23 (MHT) and 12 including a family party in South Forest Windsor Jun 18 (DJB). **Breeding:** was reported from 21 locations throughout the county which is a huge increase compared to recent years totals as this is usually a very under reported breeding species, the ongoing BTO Bird Atlas being responsible for most records. **Autumn/Second winter:** as birds leave their preferred woodland habitat to forage for acorns, they become more obvious and records increase. Most high counts during this period probably refer to such birds however passage also occurs at this time and although it is rare to observe large scale movements in a land-locked county such as Berkshire, small flocks do occur. The highest counts all occurred in Sep/Oct with 10 Dinton Pastures CP Sep 16 (GWi), 7+ Eversley GPs Sep 20 (BMA) and 8+ there Oct 2 (TGB), 7 Woodley Sep 26 (RCW), 10+ Arlington Grange Oct 8 (IW) and several groups totalling 22 birds in Swinley Forest Oct 22 (DJB). The rest of the year was quiet, the max count being 6 Lower Green Nov 23 (RHAr).

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Abundant breeding resident

High site counts involved 20 Loddon Drive, Charvil Jan 20 (DJB), 27 Burghfield Feb 5 (PNe), 74 along the Jubilee River Mar 25 (BDC; BAJC; CCH) and included a group of 20 that had surrounded 2 Carrion Crows that had killed and were eating a Magpie, 25 Woodley Jul 2 (PNe), 40+ Wokingham STW Nov 26 (DJB), 27 Hatch Gate Fm Hurst Dec 6 (BDC) and 70 Earley Dec 25 (RHS).

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Abundant breeding resident

High counts involved 385 Beenham's Heath Jul 9 (PNe), c600 over Twyford Jul 21 (SPA), 500+ Windsor Great PK Aug 15 (DJB) and c2500 at a pre-roost gathering Wraybury GPs Nov 30 (JMC). Other records of interest were 1 showing eastern race features in Windsor Gt Pk Mar 19 what was probably the long term resident first seen in May 2005 (CDRH) and 2 aberrant birds (siblings?) with extensive fawn brown feathering on the head, mantle and wings at Borough Marsh Aug 28 (MFW) and a partial albino (with greyish-white neck & body) at Membury Sep 30 (CDRH).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant breeding resident especially in rural Berkshire

Rooks were regularly reported throughout the county except for the far SE where the extensive woodland habitat is not to their liking. This is such a familiar species that high counts are only submitted by a few observers and the large numbers that frequent the Berkshire Downs are rarely given the attention they deserve. The highest counts submitted in 2010 were c700 Inglewood Kintbury Jul 4 (RHAr) and a mixed flock of 1150 corvids held 480 Rooks at Cockpole Green Sep 4 (BDC). **Breeding:** only a small portion of the counties rookeries were checked this year. Late winter or early spring visits to 24 rookeries located 738 occupied nests with the largest concentration of breeding birds found around East Ilsley where 194 nests were counted (GDS). Elsewhere over 100 nests were counted at Inkpen (RHAr) and Priors Court School Chieveley (BDC), smaller but still substantial rookeries were noted at Pinkneys Green, 30 nests (BDC), Langley Wood Beedon, 30 nests (SAG), West Ilsley, 51 nests (GDS), Windsor Gt Pk, 36 nests (RMH), Reading Marina, 50 nests (DF) and Chieveley, 30 nests (BDC).

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Abundant breeding resident

There were few records of note this year, high counts involved c100 Chapel Row Jan 13 (HEB), c400 Felix Fm Binfield Jan 30 (BDC), 480 Widbrook Com Apr 22 (BDC), 98 Beenham's Heath Jul 9 (PNe) and 133 Thatcham NDC Aug 10 (GJS). A leucistic adult was noted on the Lambourn Downs at Seven Barrows Jun 11 (CDRH).

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Scarce but increasing visitor, now breeds

Records were received from 66 locations, 38 in W Berks, 8 in M Berks and 20 in E Berks. The table shows the monthly status based on submitted records, the main stronghold around the Combe area consisting of Combe Wood east to Combe and Walbury Hills are shown separately.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. birds in Combe area, West Berks	10	10	4	1	2	3	2	8	10	12	11	9
W Berks other sites	11	4	5	9	3	3	8	2	4	6	8	6
W Berks min no birds	17	5	8	14	3	9	15	6	7	10	23	8
M Berks sites	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
M Berks min no. birds	5	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
E Berks sites	6	1	4	4	4	0	0	2	4	4	2	2
E Berks min no. birds	14	1	7	7	8	0	0	2	7	10	2	2
Min. total no. of birds	46	16	22	25	13	12	17	16	25	34	36	20

Jan/Feb: most records involved 1–2 birds usually seen in flight. Higher counts came from the Combe area where 10 were noted on both Jan 30 (DJB) and Feb 14 (TPo), elsewhere in M/E Berks the only count to exceed 2 was 6 flying N over Binfield Jan 23 (MSFW). **Mar/Aug:** in W Berks breeding may have occurred in several areas: a pair was found nesting in a Larch

in the Combe area Apr 9 (CDRH) and, although it is not known if they were successful, 2 juvs nearby on May 15 (KEM) and a juv attended by an adult on Jun 13 (RJB) may have been from that nest. Seven including several juvs were at Wormhill Bottom, Lambourn Jun 26 (CDRH) and family parties both of 5 birds were seen over Greenham Com Jul 19 (JL) and the Compton Downs Aug 13 (DJB). For the first time since 1848 Ravens bred in E Berks! In woodlands west of Maidenhead a territorial pair was present on Mar 27, with a nest discovered independently by ABT and CDRH; the pair were observed flying to and from the nest in May, obviously feeding young, and a return visit in early June by CDRH produced no sign of any birds but the edge of the nest was covered in droppings indicating successful fledging. At the other site near to Windsor, a nest with 2, possibly 3, young was discovered in a Douglas Fir on May 1 (DJB). Two young were being fed by the adults on May 4, 9 and 15 and both fledged on May 23 (DJB). All other records during this period involved just 1–2 birds except for a max of 8 at Inkpen Hill Aug 8 (SAG). **Sep/Dec:** as in the first winter, double figure counts were made in the Combe area with 10 Sep 6 (TPo) and Sep 26 (SAG), 12 Oct 2 (TPo) and 11 Nov 30 (RHar), 9 at Lower Green Nov 22 (RHar) were probably Combe birds. Away from SW Berks, high counts were 4 Cookham Rise Oct 21 (BDC) and 3 Ashampstead Nov 1 (LPe). Birds were very scarce in M Berks at this time with singles noted only at Emmer Green, Dinton Pastures CP and twice at Twyford GPs.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident and winter visitor, formally abundant (Red Listed)

High counts this year involved 3,000 in a pre-roost flight over green Pk Reading Feb 23 (NR), c900 Beech Hill Feb 26 (BDC), 500 Bury Down Mar 9 (JHa) and 500 roosting Lavell's Lake Oct 28 (MHT) increasing to c3,000 Nov 18 (FJC). Breeding was reported from many (usually urban) localities and large mainly juv flocks were reported from Colworth Pk (200+ juvs) Jun 4 and Cold Harbour (c275 juvs) Aug 21 both (DJB).

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Common but declining resident (Red Listed)

2010 was a better year for records compared to recent years with flocks/counts of 15–40 reported from 23 locations. Higher counts involved 50 Bray GP Jun 3 (PNe), 48 Paley Street Jun 30 (PNe), 120+ inc juvs Woodlands Park Jul 22 (DJB) and 60 Paley Street Nov 29 (BDC). Breeding was confirmed at 38 localities.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Formally a not uncommon resident, now a rare visitor (Red Listed)

The only record this year involved a flock of 12 (the first double figure flock since 1992) located feeding in game strips at Remenham Dec 9 (CDRH) and although not reported subsequently in 2010, did remain to winter being refound in Jan 2011.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

The highest counts this year involved 200+ Malt Hill Fm Nuptown Jan 1 (DJB), 50 Farnborough Jan 8 (GDS), 50+ South Ascot Jun 5 (DJB), 90 Cold Harbour Jul 31 (DJB), 50 flying W in small groups over Dinton Pastures Oct 26 (PBT), 66 Wigmore Lane GP Nov 19

(RCr) and 200+ Jealott's Hill Nov 30 – Dec 3 (RCMu). The cold December produced flocks of 300 Streatley Warren Dec 10 (RRI), 50+ Aldermaston Dec 24 (KEM), 100+ Stanmore Dec 29 (IW) and 100+ Compton Downs Dec 31 (ABT). Flocks of 15–49 were noted from a further 23 sites throughout the year and breeding was widely reported.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers (Schedule One)

Although not a great year for bird numbers, records were still received from 83 locations throughout the county with at least 29 being gardens. The monthly status is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	25	11	11	15	1	0	0	0	0	10	22	31
Min. number of birds	76	30	55	129	1	0	0	0	0	144	73	150

First winter: recorded from 45 locations, generally in small numbers, the highest counts were 30+ Malt Hill Fm Nuptown Jan 1 (DJB) and a max of 23 in an Ascot garden Mar 27 where birds had been present all winter (SA). **Spring passage:** increased the number of records and 70+ were seen in Swinley Forest with many more heard on Apr 9 (DJB) then 30+ there Apr 13 (DD) and 14 nearby in South Ascot (MSFW) on the same date. The last record of the period was of 1 flying N and calling over Swinley Pk May 4 (DJB). **Autumn/Second winter:** began with 1 flying S and calling over Walbury Hill Oct 4 (DJB). Apart from an exceptional flock of c125 flying SW over QMR Oct 20 (CDRH), passage was light and counts in Nov were very low apart from 30 at Seven Barrows Lambourn Nov 6 (ABT). Records increased in Dec, however numbers in-excess of 5 was only noted on 8 occasions, the highest counts being 60+ Leverton Dec 11 (DJB) with 20 still there Dec 19 (PBy) and 12 in a Wash Common garden Dec 28 (TPo).

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Common and widespread resident and winter visitor

Although still recorded throughout the county, records submitted to the report show that lower numbers (especially in winter) are well below those of just a few years ago. The highest counts this year were 32 in a Cookham garden Feb 19 (BDC), 50+ Lower Fm GP Aug 6 (NC), 50 QMR Nov 11 (CDRH) and 90 Lower Fm GP Dec 24 (SAG). **Breeding:** although only confirmed at 10 sites, the presence of singing males at many sites does suggest that breeding occurred at many localities throughout the county. Disease has obviously affected local populations but Greenfinches are still common throughout much of the county and nationally it has shown a small increase (State of the UK's Birds 2010). The lack of large flocks in winter may be due to modern farming practices and Greenfinch friendly crops such as Sun Flower and Flax are rarely planted nowadays.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Common and widespread resident

First winter: although widespread, counts of 30 or more only came from 7 locations, the highest being c100 Combe Wood Mar 9 (KEM) and 50 Snelsmore Com Mar 21–23 (IW; JL). **Spring/Summer:** although no sites reported large numbers during Apr/May, it is clear from records received that substantial numbers were present during this period. The first

flocks appeared in Jun/Jul with 30 Combe Wood Jun 12 (RBor) and 33 Englefield Jul 16 increasing to 130 Aug 20 (RCr). Further Aug counts included 50 Compton Downs Aug 13 (DJB), 80 Lower Fm Trout Lake Aug 15 (SAG) and 120+ Sonning Meadows Aug 21 (ABT). Most flock held juvs and a total of 74 locations reported confirmed breeding or fledged juvs in flocks into September. **Autumn/Second winter:** during Sep-Oct flocks were frequently encountered, high counts involved 160 Combe Wood Sep 10 (DJB), 320 (mostly juvs) at Englefield Sep 12 had increased to 350 by Sep 15 (RCr), 80 Compton Downs Sep 19 (MFW), 80 Walbury Hill Sep 25 (SAG), 200+ still at Englefield Oct 17 (RCr) and 200 Compton Downs Oct 31 (LPe). Numbers were lower in Nov/Dec, 75 Canon Court, Maidenhead Nov 1 (BDC), 80 West Ilsley Nov 13 (SAG) and 50+ Burghfield GPs Dec 9 (KEM) were the largest counts reported.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce in summer

Records were received from 107 locations throughout the county; the table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	40	30	15	10	8	3	1	1	6	25	32	33
Min. number of birds	626	639	70	94	31	6	2	2	31	302	532	887

First winter: birds were reported from 64 locations during the period. There were 30 counts of 10+ birds in Jan/Feb the highest being 115 at Padworth La GP Jan 23 (RJB) and 3 counts of c100 at Bottom Lane Theale (JA) and Roundoak Piece (PH) both on Feb 7 and Shepherds Meadows Sandhurst Feb 23 (DJS). Numbers quickly declined in March, the highest counts being only 10 at 2 sites however song was heard at several localities. **Spring/Summer:** 14 locations reported birds during Apr-Jun; probable migrants were 1 North Ascot Apr 4 (RJD), 10 Brightwalton Com Apr 14 (GDS), 3 Wooshill Wokingham Apr 29 (PBT), 1 over Burnthouse La GP May 14 (KEM) and 1 over Eversley GPs May 22 (NS). The other records involved birds on known summering sites or potential summering sites and included 1 Cranbourne Chase, Windsor Apr 3 (DJB), 15 Roundoak Piece Apr 5 (KEM) with 4 still on Apr 30 (PH) and 2 May 18 (NC), 1 singing Bucklebury Com Apr 6 (NC), 16 Swinley Pk Apr 8 then 3 May 4 and 21 (DJB), 3 South Ascot Apr 17 and Jun 5 (DJB), 2 South Forest Windsor Apr 24 then 4 (1 singing) May 20 and 1 Jun 18 (DJB), 2 (1 singing) Virginia Water May 5 (DJB) and 2 Ufton Wood May 15 (KEM). At the main site, Swinley Forest; there were 35 including 2 singing on Apr 9 (DJB) and family parties were found in 3 locations within the forest (PBT; DJB; CDRH). The last summer record here was of 2 on Jun 12 (DJB). This early date is probably due to lack of observer coverage! **Autumn/Second winter:** the only records for Jul-Aug involved 2 juvs (locally bred?) to a Crowthorne garden on Jul 17 and 2 on Aug 22 then 1 Aug 25 (BMA). September began with a male in BMA's Crowthorne garden Sep 2 and 6 Swinley Pk Sep 5 (MSFW) these probably relating to summing birds. Migrants were first noted at Dinton Pastures with 3 flying SE over Lavell's Lake Sep 21 (FJC). Passage gathered pace in Oct with 10 locations holding 15-47 birds and by early Nov birds were well established at many of their traditional riverside/woodland winter haunts. High counts in Nov/Dec included 60 Bray GPs Nov 30 (CDRH), 80 Virginia Water Dec 13 (CDRH), 80 Dinton Pastures CP Dec 15 (RM), 60 Eversley GPs Dec 29 (TGB) and 125 Windsor Great Pk Dec 30 (CDRH).

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common though declining resident, more common on passage and in winter (Red Listed)

A good year for records with records coming from 133 locations throughout the county; the increase in records is due to better reporting of small numbers via the BTO Bird Atlas, thus summer records were much more in evidence this year. The table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	20	10	17	40	30	30	29	11	15	18	14	12
Min. number of birds	2262	365	282	293	213	172	175	215	447	1439	535	781

First winter: Jan began well with 2 flocks of 500 (Malt Hill Fm) and 270 (Berry La) in the Nuptown area Jan 1 (DJB). Further high counts in Jan involved flocks of c100 Jealott's Hill Jan 5 (RCMu), 200 Peasemore Jan 17 (DL), 400+ Park Fm Lambourn Jan 23 (ABT), 250 Horton GPs (CDRH) and 200+ Sheepdrove (ABT) both on Jan 30 and 100 Hodcott Down W Ilsley Jan 31 (ABT). Birds became much scarcer in Feb (lack of observer coverage?) and only 2 sites reported 100 birds: Bury Down Feb 25 (DF) and Aldermaston Feb 27 (KEM), no counts exceeding 60 were reported in March. **Spring/Summer:** records came from 88 sites between Apr-Jul, the majority in W Berks. Numbers varied from 1-2 at many sites to 60 at Colnbrook May 26 (CDRH). Generally most records were of below 20 birds however many indicated probable breeding and breeding was confirmed at 17 sites. **Autumn/Second winter:** the first large flock involved 102 on the Compton Downs on Aug 13 (DJB). Apart from this record, early autumn counts were small, the highest Sep totals being 78 Canon Court Maidenhead Sep 7 (BDC) and 80 QMR Sep 27 (CDRH). Passage and more sustained flocking made Oct numerically the second best month of the year after Jan. High counts were 120 Cold Harbour (DJB) and 100 Compton Downs (ABT) on Oct 2, 122 Walbury Hill Oct 4 (DJB), 100 Englefield Oct 17 increasing to 450+ Oct 31 with c300 still present Nov 19 (RCr), 100 Combe Hill Oct 19 (TPo), 225 Long La Cookham Oct 20 (BDC) and 100 Bury Down Oct 23 (ABT). As bad winter weather took hold in Dec, numbers were prevented from reaching the high totals of January. The only records of note were 150+ Leverton Dec 11 (DJB), 2-300 Streatley Warren Dec 12 (RRi), 130 Horton Fields Dec 20-21 (CDRH) and 150 on the Brimpton Rd Aldermaston Dec 24 (KEM)

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Locally common passage migrant and winter visitor, formally a sporadic breeder (Red Listed)

Records were received from 96 locations throughout the county; the table shows the monthly status.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	43	35	22	14	1	0	0	0	0	11	22	20
Min. number of birds	188	345	98	438	1	0	0	0	0	280	392	586

First winter: birds were widespread throughout this period being reported from 79 locations albeit in small numbers. Counts in Jan peaked at 21 in a Woodley garden Jan 13 (AR), numbers increased in Feb and 2 counts of c50 came from Silwood Pk Feb 19 (RJD) and Eversley GPs Feb 25 (BMA). In March numbers were disappointing, the usual build-up of migrants in forest lands in SE Berks being delayed until early April. **Spring passage:** 1-5 were reported from

10 locations during Apr, larger flocks involved 50 Padworth La GP (KEM) and 20 Padworth Com (MFW) on Apr 3, 25+ Swinley Pk Apr 8 (DJB) and 320+ seen in Swinley Forest Apr 9 (DJB). The last record was of 1 at Swinley Pk May 4 (DJB). **Autumn/Second winter:** the first returning birds arrived in early Oct with 1 Dinton Pastures CP Oct 8 (FJC) and 2 Thatcham GPs Oct 9 (IW; JL). Birds were scarce until the end of the month however 200+ were present in Paices Wood Oct 31 (TGB) of which 13 were caught and ringed. More large flocks were reported in Nov especially on Nov 23 when there were 50+ Greenham Com (NC) and 100+ Eversley GPs (RFM; GJD). December was numerically the best month, although not as widespread as in the first winter or in Nov, birds were more concentrated in flocks. A total of 13 sites reported flocks of 10+, the largest being c200 Wilderness Wood, Windsor Gt Pk Dec 12 (DJB), 55 Valley Gardens, Windsor Gt Pk Dec 17 (DJB), 70 Birch Hill Bracknell (A Cheeseman) and 50+ Inkpen Com (LS) on Dec 18.

MEALY REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Rare winter visitor

A good year with 6 records involving 6 birds. **First winter:** there were 2 records from the same Caversham garden; the first was caught, ringed and photographed Jan 19 then another un-ringed bird was observed on Jan 27 (TGB). Later 1, probably a 1st w male was located at Lavell's Lake Feb 14 (FJC). **Second winter:** 1 found at Eversley GPs on Nov 27 (CRG) was ringed and photographed on Nov 28 (TGB; KIT). Another was ringed at Padworth Com Dec 5 (TGB) and finally a male was observed at feeders on Greenham Com Dec 29 (JL). The comparative frequency that this species was found in ringers nets ponders the question, how many more went un-noticed in Berks in 2010?

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Regular (irruptive) visitor in variable numbers (depending on cone crop), occasionally breeds (Schedule One)

Records were received from 27 locations, 8 in W Berks, 5 in M Berks and 14 in E Berks. The table shows the monthly status.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	0	4	1	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
W Berks min. no. of birds	0	14	1	4	9	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
M Berks sites	1	1	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
M Berks min. no. of birds	11	5	28	49	13	6	0	0	0	0	6	0
E Berks sites	2	6	7	6	3	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
E Berks min. no. of birds	45	54	75	92	42	8	20	0	0	1	0	0

Jan/Feb: West Berks: after no records in Jan, small numbers were located at Combe Wood (RBr), Ashampstead (PNe) and Yattendon (PNe) in Feb; 7 at Hermitage on Feb 2 (JBU) was the largest count. **Mid Berks:** only reported from Roundoak Piece Padworth with a max of 11 Jan 13 and 5 Feb 7 (PH). **East Berks:** only reported from Swinley Forest with 10 on Jan 21 (DLow) and Valley Gardens Virginia Water with 35 Jan 29 (DJB). In Feb small numbers of 2-6 were noted at South Forest, Dukes La Windsor Gt Pk (DJB), Woodside (BAJC) and Ascot Heath (RJD). Larger counts involved 27+ South Ascot Feb 8 and 15 Swinley Forest Feb 9 (DJB). **Mar/Jun: West Berks:** only reported from 4 sites and again in very

small numbers. 1–2 birds were noted at Hermitage (JBU), Fence Wood (DJB), Bucklebury Com and Crookham Com (NC) in Mar–Apr. Three were in Fence Wood May 7 (DJB) and 5 Hermitage May 19 (NC). **Mid Berks:** after 1 at Farley Hill Apr 3 (RRi) most records came from the Roundoak Piece/Oval Pond area near Padworth. Here max monthly counts involved 26 Mar 21, 37 Apr 26 (PH) and 10+ including 2 juvs May 18 (NC). A pair at a nest was located on Apr 16 (CDRH). Nearby at Ufton Nervet there were 2 Mar 31 (RCr), 7 Apr 11 (MFW) and 3 May 15 (KEM), 6 on Apr 13 included an ad female feeding a juv (RCr). Elsewhere 4 flew SW over Burnthouse La GP Apr 24 (KEM) and 6 flew W over Englefield Jun 27 (RCr). **East Berks:** regularly reported from Swinley Forest where the highest counts were 25 Mar 11 (DJS), 50+ Apr 13 (DD) and 35+ May 15 (PBT; DJB). Breeding was confirmed with adults feeding juvs from Apr 25 (PBT) to May 17 (RDr). The only Jun record was of 2 on Jun 12 (DJB). Nearby at Swinley Pk 11 were noted Mar 13 and 10 Apr 8 (DJB). Birds were present in 4 areas of Windsor Forest but only South Forest held birds throughout the period with a max of 14 on Mar 26 to 1 Jun 18 (DJB). South Ascot also held birds with 26 Apr 17 and 5 Jun 5 (DJB), elsewhere 20 were in Ashley Hill Woods Mar 17 (BAJC) with 2 there Apr 2 (ABT), nearby 1 was on Bowsey Hill Mar 7 (ABT). **Jul/Dec:** apart from 20 over Harmans Water Bracknell Jul 12 and 16 Jul 14 (DLow) no record exceeded 6! The first autumn report was of 1 fem flying S over Walbury Hill Sep 10 (DJB), there followed 1 Swinley Forest Oct 2 (ABT), 6 Roundoak Piece Nov 4 (PH) and finally 2 Hermitage Nov 21 (ABT).

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Uncommon resident, long term decline appears to have stabilised (Amber Listed)

This widespread species was recorded from 129 locations throughout the county; the monthly status is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	39	28	25	26	17	25	16	12	13	14	21	32
Min. number of birds	81	69	56	59	33	48	29	28	33	26	58	94

Analysis of the table shows peaks in both winter periods and also during the peak breeding month of June. This is probably due to the species being more obvious during these periods, in winter, birds may assemble into small groups and the lack of foliage may make what is usually an unobtrusive bird easier to locate. In June breeding pairs are more active while feeding young so again are more likely to be seen. Although reported from 129 locations, only 30 of these recorded birds in more than 2 months. Given that this species is usually sedentary these figures give you some idea as to how much it is under-recorded. Only 10 locations reported counts of more than 5, the maximum counts at these localities were: 10 Turnpike Newbury Jan 21 (RCla), 7 Wraysbury GPs Feb 20 (RJD), 8 Lavell's Lake Apr 20 (TOA), 6 Hungerford Marsh Apr 22 (RHar), 13 Beedon Com Nov 28 (ABT), 6 Stockcross Dec 5 (SAG), 7 Winnersh Dec 6 (BDC), 8 Caversham Dec 17 (MRWS), 8 Upper Bucklebury Dec 26 (NC) and 7 Windsor Gt Pk Dec 30 (CDRH). **Breeding:** was confirmed at 10 locations all involving single breeding pairs except for Dinton Pastures where it is thought that 2 pairs successfully bred (FJC; MFW).

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Scarce visitor, formally an uncommon resident (Red Listed)

Only 2 records this year, both in the second winter. A migrant flew N over Lavell's Lake Oct 13 (FJC) and at the end of the year a female was located amongst hornbeams in Windsor Gt Pk on Dec 30 (CDRH).

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare passage migrant and winter visitor (Amber Listed)

The first record since 2007 involved a juv type, located feeding with Skylarks on Remenham Hill Oct 16–17 (CDRH *et al.*). This is the 27th record for Berks and the bird was located at the same location as one of the 2 seen in 2007!

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Rare winter visitor (Amber Listed)

After 2 blank years, there was a single record for 2010 involving at least 2 birds (1 female and 1 lw male) found on a private site in E Berks on Nov7 (CDRH; WAS). This is the 6th record for the county since 2000!

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common but declining resident and winter visitor (Red Listed)

Although under-recorded, records were still submitted from 102 locations, 54 in W Berks, 21 in M Berks and 27 in E Berks. The monthly status based on records received is shown in the table.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of sites	15	23	24	31	20	25	20	13	11	15	11	12
Min. number of birds	179	159	157	113	57	106	43	42	66	244	149	142

The table shows that although a comparatively high number of sites were represented most months, the actual number of birds recorded is quite low reflecting the decline that this species is still experiencing within the county. Areas where Yellowhammers continue to be fairly common are all on the downlands of W Berks and it is here that all of the largest winter counts were made i.e. 40 Compton Downs Jan 2 (DJB) and 78 East Ilsley Jan 31 (GDS) in the first winter and 100+ Bury/Cow Down Oct 7 (DJB), 46 Park Fm Lambourn Oct 23 (ABT), 40 Farnborough Nov 21 (GDS), 50+ Compton Downs Nov 26 (ABT) and 80 Sheepdrove Lambourn Dec 10 (CDRH) in the second winter. Further east the only counts of note were 30 in the Hindhay Fm/Cannon Court Fm area of N Maidenhead on Feb 27 (BAJC) and Mar 6 (CCH) and 20 near White Waltham Mar 9–18 (DJB). **Breeding:** from the period of April to July, birds were reported from 67 locations with most records recording several singing males or pairs. However actual confirmation of breeding only came from 10 sites, 7 in W Berks including a pair nesting in GDS's garden hedge at Brightwalton Com, and 3 in E Berks.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common resident and winter visitor, population showing signs of stabilising after long term decline (Amber Listed)

Records were received from 91 locations throughout the county, 19 of which were gardens! **First winter:** birds were reported from 43 sites, usually in small numbers of 1–14 birds; higher counts involved 41 Remenham Jan 5 (DF) and 20 at Sheepdrove Fm Lambourn Mar 15 (JPB). The harsh weather conditions bought birds to 13 gardens where some counts were surprisingly high i.e. 9 Earley Jan 13 (MSFW) and 9 Wash Common Feb 1 (DSm). **Spring/Summer:** at least 40 locations held birds, the largest densities coming from the usual wetland areas such as Dinton Pastures CP, Dorney W, Thatcham Marsh and Woolhampton GPs. High counts were min of 20 pairs Dorney W Apr 24 (DC) and 12+ singing Woolhampton GPs Jun 6 (IW). Song was also recorded from some farmland areas such as Bury Down, 1 singing Jun 30 (PD) and Cold Harbour where 1 pair bred (DJB). Breeding was suspected at most sites where song was regularly heard but was only confirmed at a further 6 localities. **Autumn/Second winter:** reported from 36 sites during the period with flocks reported from a number of localities including 15 Eversley GPs Sep 26 (BMA), 17 Englefield Oct 23 (RCr), 23 Summerleaze GP Nov 14 (CDRH), 20 Cookham Dec 19 (BDC) and 35 Stanford End Dec 25 (SRJB). Garden records came from 8 sites and a downland count of 7 on Bury Down Dec 4 (RJB) is of note.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Locally common resident on the downs of NW Berks, seriously declining elsewhere in the county (Red Listed)

Records were only received from 28 locations, 25 in W Berks and 3 in E Berks. The table shows the monthly status based on records received.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
W Berks sites	4	3	4	8	6	5	3	3	1	3	11	9
W Berks min. no. of birds	268	30	49	120	40	26	5	78	4	106	227	250
E Berks sites	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
E Berks min. no. of birds	5	0	0	5	3	7	2	0	0	0	0	0

West Berks: the W Berks population is now restricted to the downlands north of the R Kennet, the main strongholds being along the county boundary on the Compton/Aldworth Downs, Bury/Cow Downs and surrounding the top of the Lambourn Valley south to East Garston. **First winter:** records only came from 6 locations, high counts involved 61 Compton Downs Jan 2 (DJB), 50+ Bury/Cow Down Jan 30 (DJB) and 150+ (probably the whole Lambourn Downs population) on Sheepdrove Fm Lambourn Jan 30 (ABT) with 30 still present there on Mar 8 (JPB). Elsewhere 7 were on Wether Down Lambourn Jan 30 (ABT), 7 Streatley Warren Feb 13 (ABT) and 1 Coombe Hill Farnborough Mar 6 (GDS). **Spring/Summer:** 12 locations held birds and flocks were still in evidence early in the period with 89 (9 singing) Bury/Cow Down Apr 3 (ABT) and 25 Streatley Warren Apr 15 (DJS). Analysis of territorial records show that numbers are now very low in some areas, the table shows the peak counts at all occupied sites excluding the pre-mentioned flocks, numbers of singing birds are in brackets.

Site	No. of birds	Date	Observer	Site	No. of birds	Date	Observer
Bury/Cow Downs	16 (12)	Jun 30	PD	Farnborough	(1)	Apr 25	GDS
Chaddleworth	1	Apr 20	JL	Fawley	1	Jul 22	JD
Compton Downs	17 (15)	May 28	DJB	Sheepdrove	(1)	Jun 13	MFW
Eastbury	(1)	May 22	NC	Weathercock Hill	(3)	Jun 26	MFW
East Garston	(5)	May 24	NC	Wellbottom Down	5 (4)	May 31	NC
East Ilsley	(1)	May 1	GDS				

As usual proven breeding records were very few, an adult was observed disposing of a faecal sac at Farnborough Jul 11 (GDS) and a juv was reported from Wellbottom Down on Aug 15 (MFW) and 2 probable juvs were seen on the Compton Downs Sep 20 (PBT). **Autumn/Second winter:** a better showing with records coming from 17 locations; main site counts peaked at 80 Bury/Cow Down Oct 7 (DJB), 49 Crow Down Lambourn Nov 6 (ABT), 50 Bury/Cow Down Nov 12 (ABT), 100+ Compton Downs Nov 26 (ABT), c60 Sheepdrove Dec 10 (CDRH), 25 Upper Lambourn Dec 11 (ABT) and 65 Eastbury Dec 27 (MB). Elsewhere there were 16+ Lambourn Nov 1 (CDRH), 6 Wellbottom Down Nov 6 (ABT), 16 Croker Hole Lambourn Nov 6 (ABT), 2 Hodcott Down Nov 7 (ABT), 1 Hampstead Norreys Nov 19 (JLe), 4 Wickslett Copse Nov 21 (GDS), 6 Bints Bank Lambourn Dec 11 (JWB), 2 Down Fm Lambourn Dec 11 (JWB), 10 Coombe Hill Farnborough Dec 26 (GDS) and 2 in a Brightwalton Common garden Dec 31 (GDS). **East Berks:** the Corn Buntings position in this part of the county is now in a dire situation! The only area where this species continues to exist is in the farmland to the west of Maidenhead where birds were recorded from 3 adjacent locations: Cold Harbour, White Waltham Airfield and Woodlands Park. The only winter record was of 5 on wires at Cold Harbour Jan 26 (DJB). In the spring there were 2 singing at Cold Harbour from Apr 20 (MFW) to Jun 16 (MSFW) then 1 to Jul 31 (DJB). Nearby 3 males were located on Apr 20 in rape fields by White Waltham Airfield (PBT), these persisted throughout May into June, the last record being on Jun 26 when 4 birds were seen (PBT *et al.*). Single birds, probably from WW Airfield were also seen in fields just south of Woodlands Park on Jun 14 and Jul 28 (DJB). The only subsequent E Berks sighting was of 2 at Remenham Hill on Oct 18 (CDRH).

ESCAPES AND HYBRIDS

ESCAPES AND FERAL SPECIES

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Up to 3 pairs were present in Reading, being reported from both the RThames and Kennet from Jan to Oct. One nest (with eggs) was located on View Island Mar 22 (ABT) and was still occupied May 13 (ABT). An adult with 2 cygnets on its back was found on the R Kennet at Newtown Apr 27 (JCL) and 2 pairs with 1 and 4 cygnets were on the Thames at Caversham May 15 (JCL). By July 1 pair still had 3 cygnets whilst the other had 1 (RDr). A late record of a pair with 4 small cygnets on Oct 30 (MWh) confirmed that all 3 pairs hatched young. Elsewhere in the county 2 were in the Thatcham GPs, Newbury area from Jan 1–30 (MO), 2 were seen at Shinfield Jan 2 (RRi), 1 on Black Swan Lake, Dinton Pastures on Jan 9 (MFW) was joined by a 2nd bird Jan 11 (BR), 1 Padworth La GP Mar 27 (MFW), 1 flew over Newbury Station Apr 13 (SAG), 1 Theale Main GP May 21 (KEM) increased to 2 on Jun 19 (RCr) both birds remaining either on main Pit or Hosehill Lake till Sep 6 (KEM), 1 on the R Kennet at Padworth Oct 18 (GJSu) and 1 on Cranemoor Lake Englefield Nov 23 (PG). Sadly the pair that bred regularly on Great Meadow Pond did not return to breed in 2010, the last sighting when the pen was in poor condition was in Nov 2009.

Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens*

Records came from 6 locations in 2010, all of 1 or 2 birds. At Eversley GPs only one bird remains, this was seen regularly during Jan-Feb then on Jul 25 (JMC), Sep 10 (BMA) and Oct 9 (MGLR). Elsewhere 1 was at Shinfield Jan 2 (RRi), 2 in the Widbrook Com/Summerleaze GP area were noted on Jan 22 (BDC), Feb 1 and 11 (CDRH), a pair was on the R Thames by Tilehurst Station Mar 18 (MJS), a blue phase adult was at Allanbay Pk Aug 17 (DJB) and 1 was on Burnthouse La GPs Aug 14 (KEM).

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Single birds, some long staying residents were noted at West Woodhay Lake Feb 23 to Apr 1 (RGS), Dorney W Mar 15 (CCH) and Dec 5 (MB), Summerleaze GP Jun 16 to Sep 9 whilst under-going its moult (CDRH) and Lower Fm GP Dec 4 (BHo), 12th (JLe) and 16th (NC).

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

The resident drake remained at Whiteknights Pk Lake to at least Oct 31 (PG) and was also seen nearby at Maiden Erlegh Lake Sep 19 (PG).

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

One was found at Slough SF on Sep 2 and was still present Sep 23 (CDRH).

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

A satellite tagged 18 year old female named “Apache” which escaped from Whipsnade Zoo was seen at Brightwalton Com Apr 24–25 (GDS) A zoo keeper was also present on the 25th and it is thought that the bird was then recaptured.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

A male with Jesses was seen at QMR on Feb 3 (RRi)

Cockatiel

An August mass breakout! Single birds being reported from Horton Aug 8 (CDRH), Woodlands Park Aug 20 (DJB) and Great Meadow Pond Aug 22 (DJB).

HYBRIDS

Barnacle × Bar-headed Goose

One was observed at Charvil on Mar 18 (CDRH)

Greylag × Canada Goose

Reports came from 6 locations: 1 Old Windsor Jan 25 (CDRH), 1 Cheapside Feb 14 (MSFW), 1 Englemere Pond Apr 18 and May 1 (KPD), 1 Great Meadow Pond Apr 25 (DJB), 3 (2 siblings?) Lower Fm GP May 11 (DJB) then 1 there May 12 and Aug 3 (RF) and 1 Pingewood GPs Aug 21 (MFW).

Emperor × Bar-headed Goose

One Great Meadow Pond Aug 22 (DJB) and Sep 18 (CDRH) was probably the same bird that was located at QMR on Dec 20–23 (CDRH). An earlier record of an Emperor Goose at QMR on Dec 7 probably refers to this individual.

White-fronted Goose type

The long staying resident at Great Meadow Pond was noted on many dates from Apr to Nov (DJB)

Goose hybrid

Reported from Eversley GPs with 1 Aug 27 and 2 Nov 14 (JMC).

***Aythya* hybrids**

As in previous years, these are listed by the species they most resemble rather than by their presumed parentage, since this is often speculative.

Scaup type

Moatlands GP 1 (drake?) Jan 3rd (RHS; AMH); presumably this drake still present here on Jan 31st (MFW). Woolhampton GP drake (present since Nov 2008) again Jan 21st to May 27th (KEM *et al.*) and then returning Dec 19th - 28th (KEM *et al.*).

Lesser Scaup type (Tufted Duck × Pochard)

All records were of drakes and began with 1 Burghfield GPs Jan 1 (MFW), 1 Lesser Scaup type Dorney W Jan 6 (CDRH), 1 Moatlands GP Jan 23, Feb 14 and 27th (MFW), 1 Lesser

Scaup type Bray GPs Jan 23 (DJB) 2 there Feb 11 (DJB) then 1–2 to Feb 23 (CDRH), 1 Burghfield GPs Feb 20 to Mar 14 (MFW; KEM), 1 Horton GPs Mar 16 (CDRH), 1 Lavell's Lake Mar 19 to Apr 20 (PBT; ADB), 1 Twyford GPs Apr 24 (MFW), 1 QMR Jul 8 (CDRH), 1 Burnthouse La GP Jul 25–30 (KEM), 1 Orlytt's Lake Sep 25–Oct 2 (CDRH), 1 Moatlands GP Nov 7 (MFW), 1 Bray GP Nov 30–Dec 1 (CDRH), 1 Wraysbury GPs Nov 30–Dec 25 (CDRH), 1 Horton GPs Dec 6–12 (CDRH), 1 QMR Dec 12 (CDRH) and 1 Lesser Scaup type Lower Fm GP Dec 16–17 (NC).

Scaup-type (Scaup × Tufted Duck)

1 drake Woolhampton GPs Jan 1 to Apr 15 (KEM *et al.*) present since 2009, with a female there Jan 31–Feb 1 (KEM), 1 drake Burghfield GPs Jan 2 (KEM), single drakes on Theale Main and Hosehill Lake Jan 4 (KEM) and 1 drake displaying to Tufted Ducks Burghfield GPs Apr 16 (CDRH).

Ferruginous Duck type (Pochard × Ferruginous Duck)

One female Woolhampton GPs Jan 2 to Feb 6 (MFW; KEM) the 2009 bird, 1 female Padworth La GPs Jan 26 (KEM) (the Woolhampton bird?), 1 Eversley GPs Nov 21 (RCMu) and 1 Lavell's Lake Nov 23 (ADB).

***Aythya* hybrid of unknown parentage**

1 drake Burghfield GPs Dec 9 (KEM), 1 drake Jubilee River Dec 18 and 23 (MMc) and 1 Hosehill Lake Dec 27 (KEM).

'Baer's' Pochard type (Pochard × Tufted Duck)

A drake was at Horton GPs Jan 3 (CDRH) first seen in 2009.

Pochard type (Probably Pochard × Ferruginous Duck)

One drake was present on Wraysbury GPs Mar 11–19 (CDRH)

Ring-necked Duck × Tufted Duck

One drake at Wraysbury GPs on Mar 18–19 (CDRH)

Herring Gull × Lesser Black-backed Gull

An adult at QMR on Mar 2 (CDRH) was superficially very like a Yellow-legged Gull but the mantle was a touch too dark. The black wingtips on the upperwings merged with grey, the legs were yellowish/pink (duller than LBBG) and the head had a rather slim profile.

Carrion Crow × Hooded Crow *Corvus corone* × *cornix*

One was observed at Starveal, Aldworth on Jun 28–29 (MFW; MJT); presumably the same bird that was photographed here on June 26 2009.

Golfinch × Canary

One was located singing at Wraysbury Apr 13 (CDRH)

Extreme Dates of Winter and Summer Migrants

WINTER

Species	DEPARTURE			ARRIVAL		
	Location	Date	Observer	Location	Date	Observer
Pintail	Burnthouse La GPs	Mar 23	RJB	Lea Farm GP	Aug 10	FJC; RM
Scaup	QMR	Feb 20	CDRH	Moatlands GP	Nov 9	ADB
Goldeneye	Horton GPs	May 7	PBT	QMR	Oct 17	CDRH
Smew	Moatlands GPs	May 21	RCr	Wraysbury GPs	Nov 25	CDRH
Goosander	Woolhampton GPs	Apr 9	NC	Wraysbury GPs	Oct 3	CDRH
Bittern	Denford Mill	Apr 15	RGS	Lavell's Lake	Oct 20	FJC
Merlin	Cannon Court Maidenhead	Apr 6	LJF MJF BDC	QMR	Sep 24	CDRH
Golden Plover	Greenham Common	Apr 27	JHa	Compton Downs	Aug 11	ABT
Jack Snipe	Horton GPs	Apr 17	CDRH	Horton GPs	Oct 16	CDRH
Snipe	Eversley GPs	May 6	PBT	Lower Farm GP	Jul 6	HBW
Short-eared Owl	Winnersh	Apr 1	RJB	Dorney Wetlands	Sep 29	CCH BR GDB
Rock Pipit				QMR	Sep 23	CDRH
Water Pipit				QMR	Oct 19	CDRH
Waxwing				Bracknell	Nov 6	TS
Fieldfare	Windmill Down West Ilsey	Apr 24	GDS	Emmer Green	Oct 4	DJW
Redwing	Windsor Great Park	Apr 12	MMc	Great Meadow Pond	Sep 26	DJB
Brambling	Swinley Park	May 4	DJB	Walbury Hill	Oct 4	DJB
Lesser Redpoll	Swinley Park	May 4	DJB	Dinton Pastures CP	Oct 8	FJC

SUMMER

ARRIVAL				DEPARTURE		
Species	Location	Date	Observer	Location	Date	Observer
Garganey	Lavell's Lake	May 2	RCW BTB	Summerleaze GP	Aug 16	CDRH
Quail	Compton Downs	May 28	DJB	Compton Downs	Sep 3	ABT
Osprey	Ashampstead Com	Mar 31	HFW	Sandhurst GPs	Sep 28	RCMu
Hobby	Lower Farm GP	Apr 5	MRD	Bray GP	Oct 12	CDRH
Stone Curlew	Berkshire Downs	Apr 3	ABT	Berkshire Downs	Oct 12	ABT
Little Ringed Plover	Burnthouse La GPs	Mar 18	RJB	Eversley GPs	Aug 28	NS
Ringed Plover	Greenham Com; QMR	Mar 2	JHa KEM CDRH	Dinton Pastures CP	Sep 16	GWi
Common Tern	Lower Denford	Mar 24	RHar	Wraysbury GPs	Oct 10	MHu
Turtle Dove	Woolhampton GPs	Apr 19	MHu	Woolhampton GPs	Aug 19	KEM
Cuckoo	Woolhampton GPs	Apr 7	NC	Arthur Jacob NR	Aug 23	CDRH
Nightjar	Caesars Camp	Apr 27	CRG	Padworth	Aug 22	TGB
Swift	Dorney Wetlands	Apr 19	BAJC	Theale Main GP	Sep 13	KEM
Sand Martin	Eversley GPs	Mar 14	MGLR	Lower Farm GP; Slough SF	Oct 3	IW CDRH
Swallow	Woolhampton GPs	Mar 17	KEM	Hurst	Nov 2	FJC
House Martin	Cookham	Mar 28	BR	Eversley GPs	Oct 17	RCMu
Tree Pipit	Padworth Com; Wishmoor bottom	Apr 5	PBT NR	Greenham Com	Sep 4	IW; JL
Yellow Wagtail	Borough Marsh	Apr 6	MFW	QMR	Nov 11	MMc
Nightingale	Burghfield GPs	Mar 28	JA	Greenham Com	Aug 14	NC
Redstart	Greenham Com; Dorney Wetlands	Apr 2	IW; JL; WMo	Pingewood	Sep 12	JA; RPo
Whinchat	Dorney Wetlands	Apr 24	CDRH	Brimpton	Oct 5	GEW
Wheatear	Windsor Great Park	Mar 17	RMH	Inkpen Hill	Oct 31	SAG
Ring Ouzel	Walbury Hill	Mar 27	TPo	Great Meadow Pond	Oct 17	DJB
Grasshopper Warbler	Wraysbury GPs	Apr 4	RJD	Freeman's Marsh	Jul 8	GDS
Sedge Warbler	Hosehill Lake LNR	Apr 3	MFW	Thatcham Marsh	Oct 10	IW; JL
Reed Warbler	Burghfield Mill GP	Apr 15	RCr	Thatcham Marsh	Oct 10	IW; JL
Garden Warbler	Bray GPs	Apr 10	KPD	Wraysbury GPs	Sep 11	RRG
Lesser Whitethroat	Brimpton; Lower Fm GP; Moor Copse	Apr 18	GEW; NC; DM	Burnthouse La GP	Oct 2	ABT
Whitethroat	Greenham Com	Apr 9	NC	Burghfield GPs	Sep 12	JA; RPo
Willow Warbler	Hungerford	Mar 19	RGS	Woolhampton GPs	Oct 8	KEM
Spotted Flycatcher	Swinley Forest	May 10	DJB	Woolhampton GPs	Oct 5	KEM

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Abbot, S D	SA	Britten, K		Crathorne, B	BCr
Abbott, G		Broughton, R	RBr	Crawford, D	DCr
Absolom, A	AA	Brown, A	AB	Crawford, R	RCr
Absolom, J	JAb	Brown, G		Creed, K	
Adam, S P	SPA	Brown, I H	IHB	Crispin, J	
Adam, N		Brown, W	WB	Croft, S	
Adam, P		Brown, D C		Cropper, P M	PMC
Addison, R	RAd	Brown, M		Crouch, J	
Adnams, R		Brown, S		Crowley, P J	PJC
Alexander, T O	TOA	Brown, V		Cuff, S	
Alliss, R	RAI	Bryant, M	MBr	Dale, R J	RJD
Anderson, G		Buchanan, J	JBu	Daniells, L	
Andrews, J	JA	Bucknel, N J	NJB	Dann, I	
Angus, R		Bunce, T	TBu	Darby, B J	
Antis, R		Burch, C	CBu	Davis, S	
Archer, B M	BMA	Burchett, K		Dawson, R	RD
Arcolus, C		Burden, P	PBu	Day, M	
Ashbrook, K		Burfoot, G D	GDB	Dear, M J	MJD
Ashton, P		Burgum, N		Dellman, K	KD
Badziak, O E M		Burleigh, J		Dellow, J	JD
Baker, J	JBa	Burness, R J	RJB	Dimond, S	SDi
Ball, J P	JPB	Burnett, J W	JWB	Dingwall, T	
Ball, T G	TGB	Burns, D		Dinnadge, R	
Bamford, P		Butler, D	DBu	Dixon, E	
Bampfield, R		Butler, J	JBuT	Dixon, N	
Banks, P S		Byn, A		Doble, A	
Barker, D J	DJB	Bysh, P	PBy	Dodds, D A M	DAMD
Barker, M J	MJB	Calderwood, G		Dodgington, C	CDo
Barker, S R J	SRJB	Callister, T		Dormer, M R	
Barker, C		Camp, A		Dowling, D	DD
Barlow, L		Capewell, R R	RRC	Drew, K	
Barnett, Z		Carey, S		Driver, P W	PD
Bassett, A D	ADB	Carley, T		Dryburgh, P	
Bassett, D C		Carpenter, B		Dryden, R	RDr
Bateman, L		Carr, D G	DGC	Duffus, G J	G J D
Baudon, G	GBa	Carter, D A	DAC	Duncan, K P	KPD
Bedwell, H E	HEB	Carter, R		Dutfield, P	
Beecroft, P		Chalmers, L		East, D	
Beever, D	DBe	Chambers, S		East, T A	
Beglow, B		Chatten, S		Edie, T	TE
Bell, I C	ICB	Cheeseman, A	ACH	Edwards, J	JE
Bennet, B T	BTB	Cheetham, G		Ellis, J	
Beswick Lt Col, N W		Chester, N	NCh	Emmett, G	GE
Bishop, J		Chivers, J	JCh	Evans, A R	ARE
Blackmore, D		Claridge, R	RClA	Evans, H	
Blackwell, E		Clark, B A J	BAJC	Everett, L	
Blundell, L R	LRB	Clark, J M	JMC	Eyre, J	
Blythe, T	TBl	Clark, F C		Farnsworth, F M	FMF
Boddington, D		Cleal, D	DC	Farnsworth, S J	SJF
Bolton, A		Cleere, N	NC	Farrell, G R	GRF
Booth, A		Clews, B D	BDC	Farrell, G R	
Borwick, R	RBr	Cobb, A		Fellowes, M	MFe
Boult, P		Cohen, P A	PAC	Ferguson, D M	
Bowes, A S		Colley, D		Fewtrell-Smith, I	
Bowler, D	DBo	Collins, R	RCo	Finch, L J	LJF
Bowtell, D		Cook, E		Finch, M J	MJF
Boyland, B		Cook, C N		Finnegan, T	
Boys, R C		Cooper, G		Firth, T	
Briggs, C A		Cooper, J		Flack, D	
Bright-Thomas, P	PBT	Cottingham, F J	FJC	Foote, S	
Britnell, M	MBri	Cox, J D	JDC	Forster, L	LFo

Forster, V	VFo	Housley, D		Marsh, R	RM
Foskett, D		Howes, B	BH	Marsh, R N	
Fossey, A		Hudson, D		Martin, J P	JPM
Frankum, R	RF	Hughs, J		Massie, D	DM
Free, D V		Humphrey, C C	CCH	McCarthy, M G	MGM
Fry, D	DFr	Humphrey, P		McEwan, C	
Fuge, R		Hunt, M	MHu	McEwan, D	
Fuller, D	DF	Hunt, M S		Mcgilvray, K	
Fullforth, V	VF	Hunt, S		McGinnety, F G	FGM
Furley, C		Hutchings, P E	PEH	McKee, M J	MMc
Gale, A		Hyde, C	CHy	McMahon, A	
Gale, D		Imber, K A		McNeill, J M	JMM
Gasson, P		Innes, R		Meads, S	
Gates, J		Jackman, T J	TJJ	Megson, G	
Gent, C R	CRG	Jacobs, R	RJ	Mercer, J H	JHM
Gilby, D		Jagger, S		Milligan, R F	RFM
Gilham, R	RGi	Jarret, A		Mills, D J	DJM
Gipson, P	PG	Jefferson, J		Mitchell, M J	MJM
Girling, K		Jenks, K		Mitchell, J E	
Glombeck, G		John, G		Moden, D	DMo
Glover, D R	DRG	Jones, B		Moore, K E	KEM
Godden, R J	RJG	Jones, C		Moore, R C	
Goodchild, J		Jones, K		Moran, N	
Goodey, J		Jones, R		Morgan, W	WMo
Goodship, H M	HMG	Jones, S		Murfit, R C	RCMu
Goriup, P		Jones, T		Napper, E	EN
Gostling, M H		Keel, R R	RRK	Nash, D P	DPN
Gould, M		Keil, I J		Needs, J	
Graham, S A	SAG	Kelson, D W		Nelson, R	
Gregory, G M		Kendall, P		Nesbit, P	
Griffin, M		Kettell, M M		Ness, R	RN
Gurr, M		Kiddell, C		Netley, H R	HRN
Guyatt, T A	TAG	Kimber, G		Newbound, P	PNe
Haines, W	WHa	King, S	SK	Newman, J R	
Haines, R		Kipps, M R		Newport, G	
Hallam, A R		Kirk, V		Nicholls, B	
Hanworth-Booth, C N		Kline, P		Nicol, W A	WAN
Hardie, R J		Knass, G		Noble, R	
Hardy, R	RHar	Knight, P		Norman, J	
Harris, D	DH	Langham, J		Orr, P J	PJO
Harris, J	JHa	Langley, G B		Packer, A J	
Harrison, A		Langridge, J C	JCL	Paine, I D	IDP
Harrold, M		Langton, K		Palmer, J M	
Hartley, I		Lawson, A V	AVL	Palmer, N W	
Haseler, J		Leerjet, E		Panchen, K	
Hawtree, J		Legg, J	JL	Parkes, A	APa
Haydon, R M	RMH	Lenney, M D		Parmenter, D	
Haynes, R A		Lerpiniere, J	JLe	Parsons, R	RPa
Hear, S V		Lewis, P		Pash, S T	
Heard, C D R	CDRH	Lewis, G		Payne, D	
Heath, J	JHe	Little, A E		Peck, R	RP
Hemmings, M		Livett, A		Pemble, L	
Hendry, P		Lomas, P J		Percival, S G	
Heritage, J		Long, D	DL	Peters, J	JP
Hewlett, A		Lowther, D	DLo	Peters, L	LPe
Hickman, A E D	AEDH	Loyd, P		Peters, N R	
Hickman, P	PH	Loyd , D	DLo	Phillips, H	HP
Hipperson, H		Loyd-Parry, J	JLP	Philpott, M G	
Hollands, B J	BJH	Lugg, K	KL	Pope, W	
Holmes, P		Lyle, B	BLy	Pottinger, D	DPo
Hook, J		Mace, G L	GLM	Povey, R	RPo
Horscroft, A M	AMH	Male, A		Powell, T	TPo
Horsepool, K		Mann , L B		Poynter, M	
Hotchkis, B	BHo	Mannion, P	PM	Pratt, G	

Prentice, I		Staves, L	LS	Vine, G	
Price, R A G	RAGP	Stephenson, G C	GCS	Waite, C	
Price, M		Stevens, M		Walford, M F	MFW
Priest, S N	SNP	Stevens, P J		Walker, A	
Priestley, M M		Stevens, T		Walker, B J	
Proudley, C		Stewart, G J	GJS	Wallen, M S	
Quantrill, W		Stewart, F		Wardell, J	JWar
Ralphs, I		Stewart, I		Warden, R M	
Rampton, N	NR	Stewart, C		Warden, K	
Randall, G	GR	Stow, A N	ANS	Warham, P	PWa
Redding, P		Stronach, P		Warren, J E	
Reed, J		Studd, G		Watson, M	MWa
Reedman, R	RR	Sullivan, M		Watts, R C	RCW
Reeve, B	BR	Summer, G J	GJSu	Webb, H B	HBW
Reeve, C	CRe	Sussex, D J	DJS	Webb, G R	
Reid, J	JRe	Sutton, P		Weeks, S	
Reynolds, D J	DJR	Swallow, J L	JLS	Westmacott, J	
Ricks, S	SRi	Sweetland, T	TS	Westmacott, R	
Ridley, M J		Taylor, M J	MJT	Weston, I	IW
Righelato, R	RRi	Taylor, F		Whalley, B	
Rimes, D N T	DNTR	Taylor, C D		Whitaker, M S F	MSFW
Rivoire, J		Taylor, A J		White, D J	DJW
Rix, J B	JBR	Theobald, R		White, K G	KGW
Roberts, R		Thomas, K		Whitney, M	MWh
Robson, C		Thompson, S	STh	Whittington, P A	
Rogers, T		Thorn, L	LTh	Wilding, J W	
Roper, C		Thorne, M	MTh	Wildish, M	
Rose, C		Thorton, G	GT	Williams, R	RWi
Rose, J E		Tillett, C		Williams, P	
Rowing, G	GRo	Todd, P		Williamson, C S	
Rowing, G		Tomczynski, A B	ABT	Wilson, C R	CRW
Runnacles, S	SR	Tribe, A		Wilson, G	GWi
Rylands, K		Try, F	FTr	Wilson, G E	GEW
Rymer, A	AR	Tubb, K I	KIT	Wilson, R D	
Sales, M A		Tucker, K J	KJT	Winney, M	
Sandel, S		Tucker, M		Winyard, J M	
Sandercoc, B		Tucker, S		Witts, S B	
Satterthwaite, S P		Tunstall, P	PT	Wood, P S	PSW
Saunders, P	PSa	Turner, B A		Wood, T J	
Scholey, G D	GDS	Turton, M H	MHT	Woodham, J	JWo
Scott, K		Twyford, I		Woods, A	
Scott, S		Tyler, D		Wooton, E	
Scott, P		Upton, B	BUp	Worgan, A	
Scott, E		Urquhart, E		Wright, E	
Scudamore, P	PSc	Uttley, B	BU	Wright, P	
Sell, M R W	MRWS	Vallas, J C		Young, R	
Seward, D	DSe				
Seymoor, C	CSe				
Sharkey, B	BSh				
Shea, K M					
Sheridan, J B					
Silver, N	NS				
Sklar, M	MSk				
Slater, A	ASl				
Smallridge, D	DSm				
Smallwood, J					
Smith, R G	RGS				
Smith, M J					
Spiers, L					
Sprigens, J					
Spring, K	KS				
Stacey, W A	WAS				
Stansfield, R H	RHS				
Stansfield, R T					
		Berkshire Bird Bulletin	BBB		
		Berkshire Ornithological Club	BOC		
		Birdguides	BGu		
		East Berks Heaths Survey	EBHS		
		Highland Foundation For Wildlife	HFW		
		Kintbury Wildlife Group	KWG		
		Many Observers	MO		
		Moor Green Lakes Report	MGLR		
		Newbury and District Ornithological Club	NDOC		
		Newbury Ringing Group	NRG		
		Padworth Common Ornithological Project	PCOP		
		Pang Valley Barn Owl Project			
		Runnymede Ringing Group	RRG		
		Theale Area Bird Report	TABR		
		Wokingham Borough Council			

Report on Berkshire Bird Ringing in 2010

Tim Ball

A total of over 22,000 birds of 92 species were ringed in the County during 2010. This total comes from the national figures collated by the BTO and includes all birds ringed in the county including those ringed by ringers based outside the county. A few birds (mostly scarcer raptors) ringed at confidential locations are likely to have been omitted from the totals by the BTO.

Table 1 demonstrates that 2010 was a very good year for ringing in Berkshire which resulted in over 2,000 more birds being ringed than in 2009 and the variety at 92 species was 5 more than were ringed in 2009. The species with between year changes of more than 100 between the years are listed in Table 2. A total of seven wader species were ringed in the county in 2010 – a very good total for one well inland. In common with many recent years no Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were ringed in 2010 but an interesting re-trap is detailed below.

Table 2: Changes of more than 100 birds ringed between 2009 and 2008

Species	Difference between 2010 and 2009 Totals	Species	Difference between 2010 and 2009 Totals
Reed Warbler	+259	Long-tailed Tit	-105
Blackcap	+209	Blue Tit	+1437
Garden Warbler	+138	Great Tit	-411
Whitethroat	+148	Greenfinch	-116
Chiffchaff	+282	Goldfinch	+272
Willow Warbler	+106	Siskin	-184
Goldcrest	+129		

No fewer than seven warbler species were ringed in much better numbers than in 2009 – suggesting that it was a reasonable breeding season and the Goldcrest numbers suggested a partial recovery after a very poor 2009. The contrast between Blue and Great Tits is fairly significant and studies of nest boxes at Padworth Common and Hosehill LNR demonstrated that whilst Blue Tits didn't have a tremendously successful year they did do significantly better than Great Tits and this could have been a county wide difference.

The rise in Goldfinch numbers could have been due to increased numbers using gardens – I ringed 117 in my Caversham Heights garden in 2010 compared to just 36 in 2009. Numbers of Greenfinches may well have reduced because of an increased incidence of the disease trichomonosis.

The BTO runs two major national ringing projects gathering detailed information on survival and productivity:

The Constant Effort Sites (CES) scheme is a standardised ringing programme where ringers operate the same nets in the same locations over the same time period at regular intervals through the breeding season. The Scheme provides valuable trend information on abundance of adults and juveniles, productivity and survival rates for about 25 species of passerine.

The Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project gathers survival data for individual species by recording as many of the breeding adults in study populations as possible each year either by retrapping metal ringed birds or by re-sighting colour ringed birds.

Table 1: Birds ringed during 2010

Species	Pulli	FG	Total
Mute Swan	55	11	66
Canada Goose	–	1	1
Egyptian Goose	–	3	3
Mandarin Duck	–	7	7
Mallard	–	12	12
Red Kite	–	1	1
Sparrowhawk	–	8	8
Kestrel	10	2	12
Peregrine	2	–	2
Water Rail	–	2	2
Moorhen	–	50	50
Oystercatcher	2	–	2
Little Ringed Plover	11	–	11
Ringed Plover	4	–	4
Lapwing	32	–	32
Snipe	–	1	1
Woodcock	–	1	1
Green Sandpiper	–	1	1
Black-headed Gull	133	1	134
Common Tern	24	–	24
Stock Dove	21	1	22
Woodpigeon	1	37	38
Collared Dove	–	7	7
Turtle Dove	–	1	1
Ring-necked Parakeet	–	4	4
Barn Owl	52	6	58
Little Owl	8	2	10
Tawny Owl	5	1	6
Nightjar	2	1	3
Kingfisher	–	24	24
Green W' dpecker	–	30	30
Great Spotted Woodpecker	–	125	125
Woodlark	–	3	3
Sand Martin	–	27	27
Swallow	106	46	152
House Martin	1	54	55
Tree Pipit	–	2	2
Meadow Pipit	–	133	133
Yellow Wagtail	–	6	6
Grey Wagtail	4	14	18
Pied/White Wagtail	4	30	34
Wren	6	351	357
Dunnock	7	436	443
Robin	16	548	564
Nightingale	–	8	8
Redstart	–	4	4
Stonechat	5	2	7

Pulli = chicks, FG = Full grown

Species	Pulli	FG	Total
Blackbird	14	358	372
Fieldfare	–	9	9
Song Thrush	4	104	108
Redwing	–	84	84
Mistle Thrush	–	2	2
Cetti's Warbler	–	51	51
Grasshopper Warbler	–	3	3
Sedge Warbler	3	291	294
Reed Warbler	2	754	756
Blackcap	–	1448	1,448
Garden Warbler	–	301	301
Lesser Whitethroat	–	48	48
Whitethroat	–	465	465
Dartford Warbler	–	1	1
Chiffchaff	1	1501	1,502
Willow Warbler	7	277	284
Goldcrest	–	221	221
Firecrest	–	7	7
Spotted Flycatcher	–	5	5
Long-tailed Tit	–	510	510
Blue Tit	2,430	4378	6,808
Great Tit	1,423	1891	3,314
Coal Tit	–	283	283
Willow Tit	–	18	18
Marsh Tit	–	103	103
Nuthatch	52	110	162
Treecreeper	–	100	100
Jay	–	32	32
Magpie	–	14	14
Jackdaw	3	41	44
Rook	–	7	7
Carrion Crow	–	3	3
Starling	4	11	15
House Sparrow	–	79	79
Chaffinch	–	571	571
Brambling	–	4	4
Greenfinch	4	352	356
Goldfinch	2	902	904
Siskin	–	24	24
Linnets	–	28	28
Lesser Redpoll	–	115	115
Common Redpoll	–	3	3
Bullfinch	–	140	140
Yellowhammer	–	18	18
Reed Bunting	–	264	264
Totals	4,460	17,935	22,395

In addition there are a growing number of colour marking projects where birds are marked with colour rings or wing tags and these allow birds to be identified by non-ringers and provide much more information on movements and survival.

In 2010 there were four CES projects operating in Berkshire – Thatcham (started 1992), Wraysbury (started 1993), Lavell's Lake (1987–96 and restarted in 2010) and Kintbury (started in 2007). The Reading and Basingstoke Ringing Black-headed Gull colour ringing project which started in 2009 and was registered as a RAS project in 2010. A Willow and Marsh Tit colour ringing project was started in 2009 at a confidential location in the county – the Marsh Tit part of the project only ran until 2010.

Berkshire Ringing Recoveries highlights for 2008

Mute Swan			
Z72817	Adult Male	19–02–1991	Windsor, Berks
	Unknown	17–10–2010	River Thames, Windsor, Berks 0km 19y 7m 28d
Z74845	Adult Male	11–10–1991	Windsor, Berks
	Unknown	17–10–2010	River Thames, Windsor, Berks 0km 19y 0m 6d
Although these two birds were very old they were still some way short of the British record of 27 years 6 months and 27 days held by a bird from Derbyshire which was found dead in 2010.			

Cormorant			
G1755 Orange CJX	Nestling	26–04–2009	Abberton Reservoir, Essex
	Alive (colour rings seen)	14–11–2009	Moor Green, Berks 129 km WSW 0y 6m 19d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	30–01–2010	Moor Green, Berks 129 km WSW 0y 9m 4d
	Alive (colour rings seen)	28–10–2010	Moor Green, Berks 129 km WSW 1y 6m 2d
5247929	Nestling	14–05–2008	Abberton Reservoir, Essex
	Alive (colour rings seen)	16–10–2010	Wraysbury Gravel Pits, Berks 105 km WSW 2y 5m 2d
Two birds from the large Aberton colony spending their winters in Berkshire.			

Little Egret			
GC71914	Nestling	22–05–2009	Sowley Pond, Hants
	Long dead (wild mammal)	17–03–2010	Warren Farm, Lambourn, Berks 86 km N 0y 9m 23d
An unfortunate end for a British bred bird.			

Grey Heron			
1299390 Green K2N	Nestling	20–04–2010	Cleveland Farm, Wiltshire
	Alive (wing-tag seen)	16–06–2010	Pingewood Gravel Pits Berks 68 km ESE 0y 1m 27d
This juvenile was accompanied by an unringed adult that appeared to be a parent and this shows that even in mid-June young accompanied juveniles aren't necessarily from a local breeding site.			

Sparrowhawk			
DK49863	First-year Male	28–09–2008	Pett Level, Sussex
	Long dead	20–03–2010	Thatcham, Berks 147 km WNW 1y 5m 20d
Sparrowhawks can be quite mobile but there were only seven movements of more than 100 km recorded in the whole of the UK in 2010.			

Black-headed Gull

EW84007 White 2X07	Nestling	13-06-2009	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	22-06 to 08-07-2009	Hosehill Lake, Berks 9-25 d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	23-05-2010	Hosehill Lake, Berks 344 d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	20-09-2010	Pentrez-Plage, Finistere, France 427 km SSW 1y 3m 7d
EW84018 White 2X18	Nestling	13-06-2009	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	04 to 14-07-2009	Hosehill Lake 21-31 d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	10-12-2010	Scalby Mills, North Yorks 324 km N 1y 5m 27d
EW84081 White 2X81	Nestling	20-06-2009	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	03 to 09-07-2009	Hosehill Lake 13 to 19 d
	Dead	01-04-2010	Jodrell Bank, Cheshire 219 km NNW 0y 9m 12d
EW84094 White 2X94	Nestling	20-06-2009	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	02-04-2010	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Dyfed 267 km WNW 0y 9m 13d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	19-11-2010	Nevern Estuary, Newport, Dyfed 267 km WNW 1y 4m 30d
EX30160 White 26C0	Nestling	07-06-2010	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	14 to 19-06-2010	Hosehill Lake, Berks 7 to 12 d
	Freshly dead	21-11-2010	Seal Sanctuary, Gweek, Cornwall 326 km WSW 0y 5m 14d
EX30190 White 29C0	Nestling	12-06-2010	Hosehill Lake, Berks
	Alive (colour marks seen)	28-06 to 07-07-2010	Hosehill Lake, Berks 16 to 25 d
	Alive (colour marks seen)	03-11-2010	The Lough, Cork City, Cork, Eire 513 km W 0y 4m 22d
PLG FN34995 White T8AU	Nestling	27-06-2010	Rz Notec, Szamocin, Chodziej, Pila Poland
	Alive (colour marks seen)	27-11 to 04-12-2010	Savernake Lake, Bracknell, Berks 1,229 km W 0y 5m 0 to 7d

A selection of birds from the Hosehill colour ringing project illustrating the wide range in winter destinations for birds bred locally. White 26C0 was actually killed by a seal as it attempted to join in with feeding time!. White T8AU illustrates how far some of our winter visitors come from.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

LB13110	First-year	11-08-2009	West End, Berks
	Freshly dead	01-05-2010	Ashtead, Surrey 41 km ESE 0y 8m 20d

There were only 6 Great Spotted Woodpecker movements of more than 10 km recorded in the whole of the UK in 2010.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

VT54177	Adult Female	28-09-2003	Lower Basildon, Berks
	Caught by ringer	06-02-2010	Lower Basildon, Berks 6y 4m 9d

Although very few Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers are now ringed in Berkshire this retrap is the oldest ever recorded by the UK ringing scheme which has been running since 1909!

Sand Martin

X706609	Juvenile	05–08–2009	Copyhold Sand Quarry, near Hermitage, Berks
	Caught by ringer	12–08–2010	Le Massereau, Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, France 471 km S 1y 0m 7d
FRP 5641365	Full-grown Male	11–04–2008	Ile Nouvelle, Blaye, Gironde, France
	Caught by ringer	15–07–2009	Copyhold Sand Quarry, near Hermitage, Berks 706 km N 1y 3m 4d

A couple of nice French exchanges for the Copyhold project.

Grey Wagtail

V966169	Nestling	03–05–2008	Wawcott Farm, near Kintbury, Berks
	Caught by ringer	24–01–2010	Paices Wood, Berks 19 km ESE 1y 8m 21d

It's always nice to retrap a bird ringed as a nestling and this one has just moved along the Kennet valley and was sexed as a female.

Sedge Warbler

X338391	First-year	03–08–2009	near Red Row, East Chevington, Northumberland
	Caught by ringer	07–05–2010	Woolhampton Gravel Pit, Berks 433 km S 0y 9m 4d
L501687	First-year	07–09–2010	Leighton Moss, near Silverdale, Lancs
	Caught by ringer	12–09–2010	Great Meadow Pond, Windsor, Berks 339 km SSE 0y 0m 5d
V406910	Juvenile	29–08–2010	near Little Fen, South Lopham, Norfolk
	Caught by ringer	12–09–2010	Great Meadow Pond, Windsor, Berks 154 km SW 0y 0m 14d
L121234	Nestling	02–07–2010	West Meadows, near Bradford's Farm, Berks
	Caught by ringer	09–08–2010	Mars-Ouest, Saint-Philbert-De-Grand-Lieu, Loire-Atlantique, France 486 km S 0y 1m 7d
V462980	Full-grown	26–04–2008	Wraysbury Gravel Pits, Berks
	Caught by ringer	16–08–2010	Roncanito - Odemira, Beja, Baixo Alentejo, Portugal 1,665 km SSW 2y 3m 21d
ESA Z53246	First-year	28–07–2009	Hondarribia, Guipuzcoa, Spain
	Caught by ringer	01–05–2010	The Wilderness, near Kintbury, Berks 895 km N 0y 9m 3d

An impressive set of recoveries this year. X338391 was presumably still on it's way north when caught at Woolhampton. L501687 and V406910 are quick movements south on migration. The remaining three birds are all nice foreign exchanges.

Reed Warbler

T339865	Adult Female	02–08–2005	Thetford, Norfolk
	Caught by ringer	03–09–2007	Pett Level, Sussex 167 km S 2y 1m 1d
	Caught by ringer	12–06–2010	Thatcham Marsh, Thatcham, Berks 178 km SW 4y 10m 10d
ESI N794787	First-year Male	16–09–2008	Miralrio, Gelsa, Zaragoza, Spain
	Caught by ringer	24–06–2010	Woolhampton Gravel Pit, Berks 1,110 km N 1y 9m 8d

T339865 is very unusual for in being caught at three different places, the Thatcham record suggests it was attempting to breed in Berkshire in 2010 but it's impossible to say whether it had been local in all previous years or had moved its breeding location.

Blackcap

L032445	Juvenile Male	05-07-2010	Carr Vale, Derbyshire
	Caught by ringer	28-08-2010	The Wilderness, near Kintbury, Berks 202 km S 0y 1m 23d
X170529	First-year Male	03-01-2009	Hayne Barton, Devon
	Alive (colour marks seen)	05 to 16-01-2010	Calcot, Reading, Berks 178 km ENE 1y 0m 2-13d

L032445 was moving south fairly gradually as it started it's migration and X170529 shows that our winter visitors can be quite mobile – Devon in 2009 and just 11 days in Berkshire in 2010.

Garden Warbler

L378226	Juvenile	31-07-2010	Wraysbury, Berks
	Caught by ringer	12-08-2010	Pett Level, Sussex 105 km SE 0y 0m 12d

A fairly rapid movement to the coast.

Chiffchaff

DEL885	First-year	12-08-2010	Woolhampton Gravel Pit, Berks
	Caught by ringer	16-09-2010	Pett Level, Sussex 141 km ESE 0y 1m 4d
DEL849	First-year	06-08-2010	Brimpton Gravel Pit, Berks
	Caught by ringer	19-09-2010	Pett Level, Sussex 140 km ESE 0y 1m 13d

Two almost identical recoveries – and more examples of birds heading from Berkshire towards a shorter Channel crossing.

Blackbird

LA44547	First-year Male	25-02-2008	Theale, Berks
	Dead	21-07-2010	Kimarp, Ingatorp. Jonkoping, Sweden 1,265 km ENE 2y 4m 26d
LA71432	First-year Female	14-12-2008	Sheepdrove Farm, Stancombe Down, Berks
	Freshly dead	11-08-2010	Backebo, Alsterbro, Kalmar, Sweden 1,286 km ENE 1y 7m 28d

Two wintering birds returning to southern Sweden for the breeding season.

Goldfinch

X818575	First-year Female	31-01-2010	Kintbury Farm, Kintbury, Berks
	Caught by ringer	17-04-2010	Moss House Farm, Out Rawcliffe, Lancs 292 km NNW 0y 2m 17d
X864562	First-year Male	02-11-2009	Caversham Heights, Reading, Berks
	Alive (trapped)	15-10-2010	Miranda de Ebro, Burgos, Spain 991 km S 0y 11m 13d

Two different wintering strategies – X818575 had presumably not been much further south than Berkshire before returning to the north of England, X864562 went all the way to Spain where it was unfortunately caught for the cage bird trade.

Reed Bunting

X963029	Full-grown Female	14-02-2010	Thatcham Marsh, Thatcham, Berks
	Caught by ringer	18-09-2010	Dungeness, Kent 164 km ESE 0y 7m 4d

This had presumably been a winter visitor from further east when it was caught in Berkshire.

These ringing totals and recovery details are taken from Robinson, R.A. & Clark, J.A.(2011) The Online Ringing Report: Bird ringing in Britain & Ireland in 2010 BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 20–July-2012).

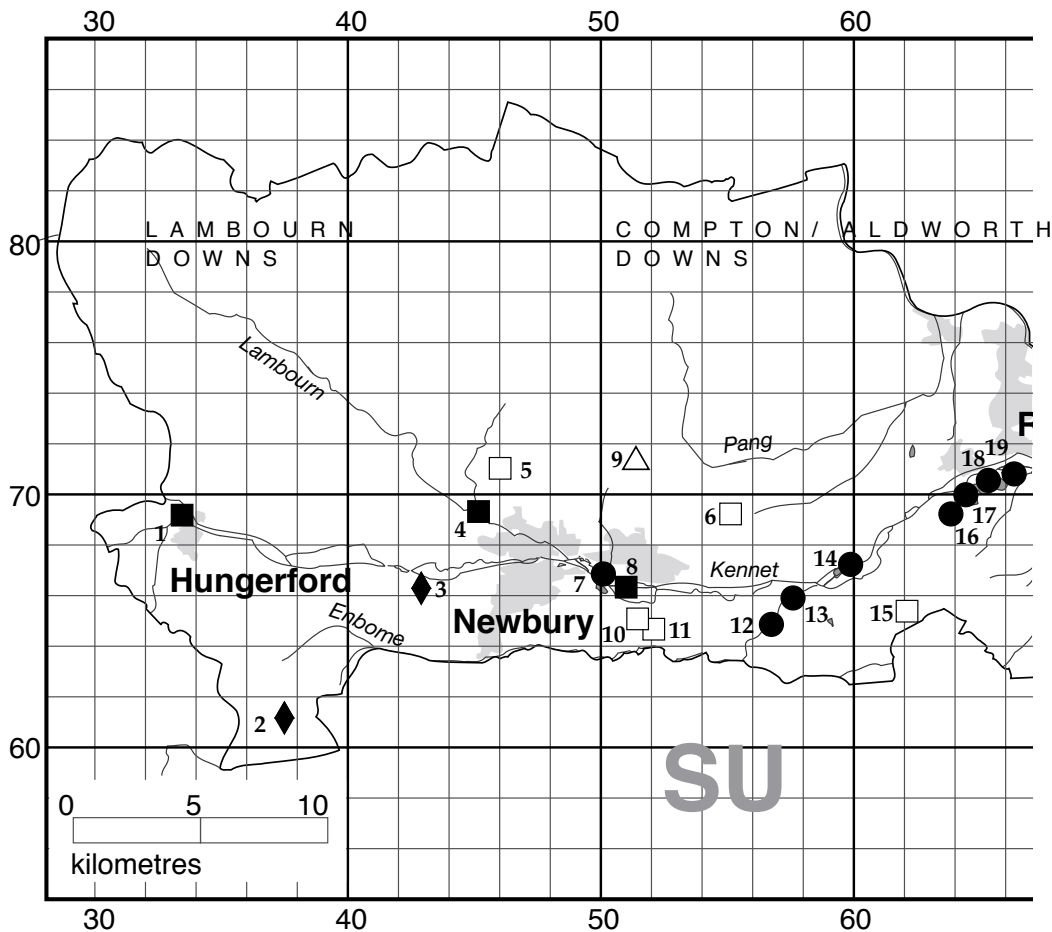
Nest recording in 2009

The BTO’s Nest Record Scheme has run since 1939 and collates a vast amount of very important data on breeding success of a wide variety of species. The data is used to identify trends in breeding performance, and identify problems at different stages of the breeding cycle. NRS data are also used to measure the impacts of pressures such as climate change on bird productivity.

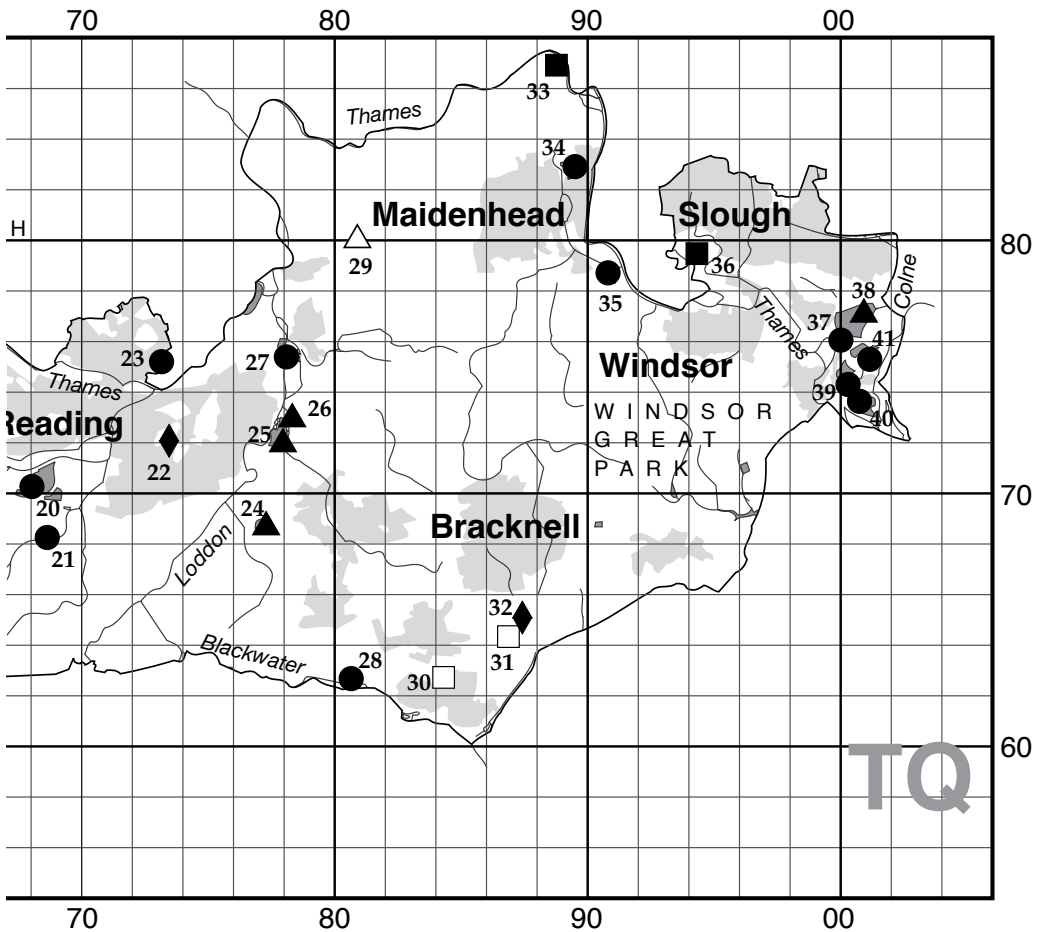
Not all nest recorders are ringers but because many are I have included a record of the Berkshire contribution to this national data set below. 642 nest records were completed in 2010 and this was an impressive 40% increase on the previous two years when around 460 were submitted. The species covered also increased by a similar amount to 45 species. Six groups/individuals contributed more than 100 nest records (some from outside Berkshire) during 2010 - Matt Prior (460), Newbury Ringing Group (369), Philip and Sarah Bone (204), Food & Environment Research Agency (188), Reading and Basingstoke Ringing (122) and BIAZA Nest Recording Project (121).

Table 3: Nest Records completed during 2010

Species	Nest Records	Species	Nest Records	Species	Nest Records
Great Crested Grebe	9	Barn Owl	12	Song Thrush	3
Canada Goose	2	Little Owl	4	Willow Warbler	1
Egyptian Goose	1	Tawny Owl	3	Long-tailed Tit	1
Mandarin	6	Nightjar	3	Blue Tit	191
Mallard	3	Kingfisher	2	Great Tit	213
Kestrel	4	Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	Coal Tit	1
Peregrine	1	Willow Tit		Willow Tit	4
Moorhen	5	Swallow	38	Marsh Tit	1
Coot	10	House Martin	1	Nuthatch	11
Oystercatcher	1	Grey Wagtail	1	Treecreeper	1
Little Ringed Plover	9	Pied Wagtail	1	Jackdaw	8
Ringed Plover	3	Wren	2	Starling	1
Lapwing	18	Duncock	1	Chaffinch	2
Stock Dove	32	Robin	8	Goldfinch	1
Wood Pigeon	4	Stonechat	1	Total	642
Ring-necked Parakeet	9	Blackbird	6	Species	45



- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| 1 SU 333 686 | Freeman's Marsh | 23 SU 735 745 | Caversham Lakes/Henley Road GP – Oxon |
| 2 SU 375 616 | Walbury Hill/Combe Wood | 24 SU 773 685 | Bearwood Lake |
| 3 SU 428 662 | Hamstead Park | 25 SU 780 725 | Dinton Pastures CP Country Park |
| 4 SU 452 694 | Bagnor Cress Beds | 26 SU 783 730 | Lavell's Lake |
| 5 SU 460 710 | Snelsmore Common | 27 SU 783 757 | |
| 6 SU 555 690 | Bucklebury Common | and 785 750 | Twyford Gravel Pits |
| 7 SU 502 665 | Thatcham/Muddy Lane/Lower Farm GPs | 28 SU 807 625 | Moor Green Lakes (Eversley Gravel Pits) |
| 8 SU 505 665 | Thatcham Marsh | 29 SU 807 800 | Bowsey Hill |
| 9 SU 515 715 | Fence Wood | 30 SU 842 625 | Wildmoor Heath (aka Edgebarrow Heath) |
| 10 SU 500 646 | Greenham Common | 31 SU 877 630 | Swinley Forest (Wishmoor area) |
| 11 SU 526 643 | Crookham Common | 32 SU 875 655 | Swinley Forest, Crowthorne Woods
(Caesar's Camp and The Lookout) |
| 12 SU 568 652 | Brimpton Gravel Pits | 33 SU 885 870 | Cockmarsh |
| 13 SU 570 660 | Woolhampton Gravel Pits | 34 SU 895 825 | Summerleaze Gravel Pits |
| 14 SU 596 668 | Aldermaston Gravel Pits | 35 SU 908 788 | Bray Gravel Pits |
| 15 SU 620 648 | Padworth Common | 36 SU 935 795 | Dorney Wetlands, Slough Sewage Farm
and Jubilee River |
| 16 SU 697 648 | Hosehill Lake | 37 TQ 000 760 | Datchet Common Gravel Pits |
| 17 SU 635 703 | Theale Gravel Pits (Wigmore Lane area) | 38 TQ 008 770 | Queen Mother Reservoir |
| 18 SU 655 705 | Theale Gravel Pits (Theale Main) | 39 TQ 005 745 | |
| 19 SU 665 707 | Theale Gravel Pits
(Moatlands and Field Farm) | and 010 735 | Wraysbury Gravel Pits, (Sunnymeads) |
| 20 SU 680 705 | Burghfield Gravel Pits (Searles Farm) | 40 TQ 010 735 | Wraysbury Gravel Pits (Village Pit) |
| 21 SU 688 685 | Pingewood Gravel Pits (Burnthouse Lane) | 41 TQ 010 755 | Horton Gravel Pits |
| 22 SU 735 720 | Whiteknights Park | | |



The main areas for birdwatching in Berkshire are the river valleys of the Kennet, Lambourn, Loddon, Blackwater and the Thames, the areas of downland around Walbury Hill, Lambourn, Compton and Aldworth and the forests and heathlands in the south and east of the county.

This map shows the general area of the Lambourn, Compton and Aldworth Downs and Windsor Great Park but includes most other frequently mentioned sites visited regularly by birdwatchers. For further detailed site information try www.berksbirds.co.uk or www.birdsofberkshire.co.uk where maps and site descriptions can often be found. Sites on this map have been given a number, a map reference (approximate centre) and one of the following symbols:

- Gravel Pits
- Commons and Heaths
- Marshes and Sewage Farms
- ▲ Lakes and Reservoirs
- △ Downland and Parkland
- ◆ Woodland

Please note that inclusion of a site does not guarantee free or safe access.

County Directory

COUNTY RECORDER

Chris Heard, 3, Waterside Lodge, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8NP.
Telephone 01628 633828.

BERKSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

www.berksoc.org.uk

A Club for birdwatchers throughout Berkshire, with indoor and outdoor meetings, surveys and publications, including Birds of Berkshire annual reports – see page 2 for details. Collects bird records for the county and is responsible for the county database and administers 'The Birds of Berkshire Conservation Fund'. Registered Charity number 1011776

Secretary, Mike Turton, 7 Fawcett Crescent, Reading RG5 3HX

Telephone 0118 969 4197

Email: berksocsecretary@berksoc.org.uk

NEWBURY DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB

www.ndoc.org.uk

A Club for birdwatchers in the Newbury area with a recording area of 10 miles radius of the town. Offers indoor and outdoor meetings, surveys and publications.

Membership Secretary, Karen Eggleton, 4 Thornfield, Headley, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 8AQ

Telephone 01635 269566

Email: info1@ndoc.org.uk

BERKSHIRE BIRD BULLETIN

Publisher of monthly newsletters of birds reported in the County with a news summary and detailed listings of sightings. Records are welcome for publication.

County Ornithological Services.

Brian Clews, Telephone 01628 525314 or Email: brian.clews@btconnect.com

BIRDS OF BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION FUND

Charitable Fund managed for the benefit of Berkshire's birds.

Enquiries and applications to: Renton Righelato

Telephone 0787 981 2564

Email: renton.righelato@berksoc.org.uk

www.berksbirds.co.uk

An independent website devoted to offering a free resource to birdwatchers in Berkshire and providing news, photographs and records of birds with additional optional information services.

BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY (BTO)

Joint local representatives for BTO matters including organising surveys: Ken and Sarah White, Yonder Cottage, Ashford Hill, Thatcham, Berks, RG19 8AX.

Telephone 01635 268442

Email: btoberks.ken.sarah@googlemail.com

FRIENDS OF LAVELL'S LAKE

Conservation volunteers managing Lavell's Lake local nature reserve near Dinton Pastures Country Park, Wokingham. Bird walks, work parties, occasional meetings and newsletters.

Chairman Fraser Cottington at

Fraser.cottington@ntlworld.com or see www.foll.org.uk

MOOR GREEN LAKES GROUP

Conservation volunteers who manage Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve near Eversley. Work parties, newsletters, an annual report and access to bird hides.

Membership Secretary: David Bishop, 7 Ambarrow Crescent, Little Sandhurst, Berks, GU47 8JA

Email: dave.bishop@mglg.org.uk

THEALE AREA BIRD CONSERVATION GROUP

A local Club devoted to the conservation of birds in the Theale area, west of Reading. Indoor and outdoor meetings, annual bird race and survey work.

www.freewebs.com/tabcg/

Cath McEwan, Secretary,

Email: Catherine@cmcewan.fsnet.co.uk

LOCAL RSPB GROUPS

Groups promote and represent the RSPB in the local community. Activities include indoor and outdoor meetings and fund raising events.

Further details from the RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/ or directly from:

East Berks Local Group
www.eastberksrspb.org.uk/

Reading Local Group
www.reading-rspb.org.uk/

Wokingham and Bracknell Local Group
www.wbrspb.btinternet.co.uk/

The bird-watching code

(from the RSPB's code at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/watchingbirds/code/index.aspx>, with modifications)

The interests of the bird come first.

Birds respond to people in many ways, depending on the species, location and time of year. Disturbance can keep birds from their nests, leaving chicks hungry or enabling predators to take eggs or young. During cold weather or when migrants have just made a long flight, repeatedly flushing birds can mean they use up vital energy that they need for feeding. Intentional or reckless disturbance of some species at or near the nest is illegal in Britain.

Whether your particular interest is photography, ringing, sound-recording or birdwatching, remember that the interests of the bird must always come first.

- Avoid going too close to birds or disturbing their habitats – if a bird flies away or makes repeated alarm calls, you are too close. And if it leaves, you won't get a good view.
- Stay on roads and paths where they exist and avoid disturbing habitat used by birds.
- Think about your fieldcraft. Disturbance is not just about going too close – a flock of wading birds on the foreshore can be disturbed from a mile away if you stand on the seawall.
- Repeatedly playing a recording of birdsong or calls to encourage a bird to respond can divert a territorial bird from other important duties, such as feeding its young. Never use playback to attract a species during its breeding season, even if it isn't a normal breeder in the area as this could prevent potential colonisation.

Know the rules for visiting the countryside, and follow them.

Respect the wishes of local residents and landowners, and don't enter private land without permission unless it is open for public access on foot. Follow the codes on access and the countryside for the place you're walking in.

Irresponsible behaviour may cause a land manager to deny access to others (eg for necessary survey work). It may also disturb the bird or give birdwatching bad coverage in the media.

Legislation provides access for walkers to open country in Britain, and includes measures to protect wildlife. In England and Wales, access is to land mapped as mountain, moor, heath and down, and to registered common land. However, local restrictions may be in force, so follow the Countryside Code and plan your visit. In England, the Countryside Code and maps showing areas for public access are at www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk.

Know the law

In England, Scotland and Wales, it is a criminal offence to disturb, intentionally or recklessly, at or near the nest, a species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. Disturbance could include playback of songs and calls. The courts can impose fines of up to

£5,000 and/or a prison sentence of up to six months for each offence. In Scotland, disturbance of Capercaillie and Ruffs at leks is also an offence.

The government can, for particular reasons such as scientific study, issue licences to individuals that permit limited disturbance, including monitoring of nests and ringing.

It is a criminal offence to destroy or damage, intentionally or recklessly, a special interest feature of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or to disturb the wildlife for which the site was notified. In England, Wales, a fine of up to £20,000 may be imposed by the Magistrates' Court, or an unlimited fine by the Crown Court. In Scotland, the maximum fine on summary conviction is £40,000, or an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment.

If you witness anyone who you suspect may be illegally disturbing or destroying wildlife or habitat, phone the police immediately (ideally, with a six-figure map reference) and report it to the RSPB.

If you discover a rare bird, please bear the following in mind:

Consider the potential impact of spreading the news and make an effort to inform the landowner (or, on a nature reserve, the warden) first. Think about whether the site can cope with a large number of visitors and whether sensitive species might be at risk, such as breeding terns, flocks of wading birds or rare plants.

On private land, always talk to the landowner first. With a little planning, access can often be arranged.

Rare breeding birds are at risk from egg-collectors and some birds of prey from persecution. If you discover a rare breeding species under any circumstances report it to the County Recorder (for Berkshire: email records@berksoc.org.uk) as a matter of urgency or the RSPB if it's outside the county. The County Recorder will consider telling the landowner of the bird's presence and legal obligations in most cases, and this will help ensure that the nest is not disturbed accidentally.

- If you have the opportunity to see a rare bird, enjoy it, but don't let your enthusiasm override common sense. In addition to the guidelines above:
- If you go to see a rare bird, park sensibly, follow instructions and consider making a donation if requested.
- Don't get too close for a photograph – you'll earn the wrath of everyone else if you flush the bird out of sight.
- Be patient if the viewing is limited, talk quietly and give others a chance to see the bird too.
- Do not enter private areas without permission.
- Birds should never be flushed in important wildlife habitats or where there are other nesting or roosting birds nearby. Birds should not be flushed more frequently than every two hours nor within two hours of sunrise or sunset, so that the bird has chance to feed and rest. At any time in the breeding season flushing rare visitors can be very disruptive to other species that are breeding in the area and so shouldn't be done.